



**DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER**  
750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

**8.**

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	September 3, 2021
From:	Trevor Doré, Community Programs Coordinator
Subject:	Cigarette Butt Disposal Bins/Outdoor Ashtrays
File:	1700-09

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. staff implement a pilot cigarette butt disposal bin program in 2022;
2. staff work with Vancouver Coastal Health on communication strategies to increase awareness of smoking regulations and reduce cigarette butt litter; and
3. staff report back to Council with an update on the pilot program in Q2 of 2023.

#### 1.0 Purpose

At their June 28, 2021 meeting, Mayor and Council issued the following motion:

*THAT council request that staff provide a report on the implications (financial and otherwise) of providing cigarette butt disposal bins/outdoor ashtrays in our community and if any objectives on the strategic plan will have to be re-prioritized to accommodate this motion.*

This report responds to this motion and provides information about the implications of installing cigarette butt disposal bins in the District of West Vancouver (District).

#### 2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

The District’s Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009 regulates smoking in the District and restricts smoking within six metres of building openings, public transit stops, and in all District parks (**Appendix A**).

The Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and Regulation are administered by the Ministry of Health and regulate the use, sale, and display of tobacco products in the Province of British Columbia.

Other public sector organizations that operate in the District, including BC Ferries and the West Vancouver School District, have smoking policies in compliance with provincial legislation. All BC Ferries vessels and terminals

are smoke-free environments and no smoking is allowed on school district property or within a two block radius.

### **3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan**

This report is being brought forward as per the motion regarding Cigarette Butt Disposal Bins/Outdoor Ashtrays. It aligns with the following Council Strategic Objective:

3.5 Reduce community and corporate waste, including single use plastics.

Implementing a pilot cigarette butt disposal program would not require any objectives on the strategic plan to be re-prioritized.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

If the District were to implement a pilot cigarette butt disposal program, the estimated costs would include the provision of containers, program coordination, maintenance, and servicing. Overall costs for the pilot program are estimated to be approximately \$7,000 for the first year.

Should Council direct staff to implement a pilot, funding will be included in the annual solid waste utility rate setting proposal for 2022.

### **5.0 Background**

The purpose of this report is to explore the option of installing cigarette butt bins in the District. Provision of cigarette butt bins as a municipal service could compliment the District's ongoing initiatives to reduce cigarette litter. Council must balance this against the District's Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009, which prohibits smoking in most places in West Vancouver, including within 6 metres of building openings, public transit, and parks. The Bylaw also requires that property owners place "No smoking" signage wherever smoking is prohibited.

#### **5.1 Previous Decisions**

Council, at its July 27, 2009 regular meeting, adopted the "Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009" to regulate smoking in the District.

In the staff report dated June 25, 2009, titled "Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009", staff indicate:

*"Residents are frequently requesting amendments to our smoking bylaw regulations to include outdoor smoking requirements, in particular for outdoor patios in restaurants and in some areas of our parks. From complaints that have been received it appears that the community is becoming less tolerant of smoking and of secondhand smoke intrusion."*

*“Smoke-free public places reduce smoking rates and protect people from the hazards of second hand smoke. Furthermore they model healthy behaviour for children and youth and help smokers to smoke less, possibly quitting altogether.”*

Council at its November 19, 2018 regular meeting, adopted the Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009, Amendment Bylaw No. 4984, 2018. The purpose of this bylaw amendment was to update the definition of smoking so that it includes the regulation of new methods of smoking such as use of e-cigarettes, vapourizing, and cannabis.

Council, at its June 28, 2021 meeting, passed the following motion:

*THAT council request that staff provide a report on the implications (financial and otherwise) of providing cigarette butt disposal bins/outdoor ashtrays in our community and if any objectives on the strategic plan will have to be re-prioritized to accommodate this motion.*

## 5.2 History

Cigarette butts have been identified as a prevalent type of litter collected in beach cleanups in West Vancouver. During the Mayor’s Community Cleanup events in 2019 and 2021, volunteers provided feedback that a significant amount of litter picked up during these events was cigarette butts. According to the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, an organization that facilitates shoreline cleanups and tracks litter, over 5,000 cigarette butts were picked up during shoreline cleanup events in the District in 2019/20.

Cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals, such as arsenic and lead, and the filters contain micro plastics that are not biodegradable. When littered on the ground, cigarette butts can make their way into waterways during rain events and negatively impact the environment. Additionally, carelessly discarded cigarette butts can cause fires.

The District currently addresses cigarette butt litter through the Parks and Engineering departments’ regularly scheduled and on-going street maintenance programs, which include dedicated staff and street cleaning equipment. The District has been a Clean Shoreline Community with the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup since 2018. Through this partnership, the District supports multiple litter cleanup events throughout the year.

In 2017, streetside recycling bins were installed on sidewalks and at bus stops in Horseshoe Bay. This pilot project was effective in diverting 50 per cent of waste from the garbage to be recycled. In 2019, the streetside recycling project expanded to other commercial areas in West Vancouver providing more opportunities to recycle in public spaces.

Staff have not previously installed cigarette butt bins in public places as it is challenging to find appropriate locations on public property where smoking is permitted and because managing the quantity of cigarette butt litter can be problematic.

## 6.0 Analysis

### 6.1 Discussion

Strategies for reducing cigarette litter include collection, enforcement, and education. Research has shown that an integrated approach and combination of tools is most effective.

Several municipalities, including the City of North Vancouver and City of Vancouver have installed cigarette butt disposal bins to help manage cigarette litter.

However, Vancouver Coastal Health has concerns that installing cigarette butt bins could have unintended consequences of encouraging smoking and recommends a more comprehensive approach to reduce cigarette litter.

#### Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)

While supportive of initiatives to remove cigarette butts from the environment, VCH is concerned that outdoor cigarette butt bins may re-normalize smoking in public areas. Placing cigarette butt bins or ashtrays can create de-facto smoking areas where smokers congregate and expose other members of the public to second hand smoke.

Additionally, VCH has expressed concerns about municipal partnerships with cigarette butt collection and recycling programs run by TerraCycle because the substantial funder of the recycling initiative is the tobacco industry.

TerraCycle is the main supplier and partner available to municipalities for cigarette butt collection and recycling. Through this program, cigarette butts collected in a municipality are shipped to TerraCycle where they are mechanically shredded and separated into paper, tobacco, and plastics. The tobacco, paper, and ash are composted, and plastics are blended and recycled into plastic items such as plastic pallets.

VCH is supportive of a program where the focus remains on actions designed to discourage smoking. When cigarette consumption decreases as a result of education campaigns to reduce prevalence of smoking, cigarette butt waste decreases overall.

In this regard, VCH has provided a letter to the District (**Appendix B**), which includes their more detailed comments and recommendations.

### City of Vancouver

In 2013, the City of Vancouver launched a pilot cigarette butt recycling program with TerraCycle. Initially, TerraCycle provided 110 aluminum canisters and the City contracted two non-profit organizations to help assemble, install, and empty the canisters. These are now serviced by municipal staff.

Operational considerations when installing cigarette butt bins include selecting a style of cigarette butt disposal container that will minimize vandalism, minimize rainwater entry, and facilitate easy service.

Some challenges with the program included:

- The need to ensure the canisters were in locations that comply with smoking bylaw requirements.
- VCH concerns regarding potential negative public health consequences (e.g. increased second hand smoke exposure).
- Surveys found bins captured only 33% of butts in the study area (assumes these butts would have been littered), which indicates a limited effectiveness of the bins.

Since installing the cigarette butt bins in 2013, the City of Vancouver purchased their own bins, separate from the TerraCycle program, and added quit smoking decals to the bins.

More recently, the City of Vancouver has broadened their approach to reducing cigarette butt litter by implementing a comprehensive education program, including a pocket ashtray program. Pocket ashtrays are labeled with information from quitnow.ca, a free program for British Columbians looking to quit or reduce tobacco use. Pocket ashtrays are distributed at Vancouver public libraries, recreation facilities, and community policing locations. Pocket ashtrays provide an alternative to littering cigarette butts, however, they are also single-use items that add to the waste stream.

The City of Vancouver continues to monitor the effectiveness of their programs and implement a multi-faceted approach to cigarette litter reduction.

### City of North Vancouver

In September 2020, the City of North Vancouver installed fifteen cigarette butt bins on streetscape recycling bins. The bins were procured through TerraCycle's cigarette butt recycling program.

City staff noted that it was difficult to find locations for cigarette butt bins that were not in contravention of the smoking bylaw. Initially, the cigarette butt bins were designed to be discreet, but later a "recycle your butts here" sticker was added to increase visibility of the program.

The City of North Vancouver has also launched an education campaign to support its cigarette bin program. Bins are locked to prevent vandalism from people looking to salvage cigarette butts to smoke.

City maintenance staff service the bins and send the cigarette litter to TerraCycle to be recycled. According to staff at the City of North Vancouver, overall the program has been successful and requires minimal maintenance.

### *Pilot Cigarette Butt Bins and Communication Campaign*

In summary, research shows that integrated and comprehensive solutions work best to reduce cigarette butt litter. Despite concerns about municipal collection programs, VCH is most supportive of cigarette butt collection where messaging discourages smoking, and increases awareness of smoking regulations.

It is also not clear how effective cigarette butt bins will be at reducing cigarette butt litter in the community. Locations where cigarette butt litter is most common are often not locations where smoking is allowed. A pilot program will allow staff to test the effectiveness of cigarette butt bins, understand the resource requirements, and identify potential challenges in scaling the program.

Therefore, staff recommend implementing a cigarette butt disposal bin pilot. The proposed pilot provides for six cigarette butt bins to be placed on existing streetside recycling bins (**Appendix C**). Bins should be located in a place where smoking is permitted, or close enough to a location where smoking is permitted that people will walk to the bins to dispose of cigarette butts. Staff have identified pilot bin locations that are in compliance with the Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009 and that have been observed to be high smoking areas by Parks department staff.

Staff also recommend that the implementation of the pilot program is accompanied by a communication campaign. Two goals of the public education campaign would be to:

- Raise awareness of the new bins and encourage a reduction of cigarette butt litter more broadly; and
- support VCH objective of connecting to existing resources to help people quit smoking such as [quitnow.ca](http://quitnow.ca).

As a requirement of Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009, all businesses are required to display “no smoking” signs. Staff could reach out to property owners in high-foot-traffic areas to educate them of this requirement and ensure regulatory signs are installed.

*Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program:*

Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs shift the responsibility of collecting and recycling from residents and municipalities to industry. The District's residential blue box recycling program, now the responsibility of Recycle BC, is an example of a successful EPR program.

In the letter from Vancouver Coastal Health (**Appendix B**), they recommend EPR approaches such as implementing a cigarette butt deposit-return program and a cigarette waste tax added to the sale of cigarettes to fund cigarette litter clean-up campaigns. Decisions about EPR programs are provincial jurisdiction. Tobacco waste is not currently part of provincial EPR program considerations at this time.

In addition to installing pilot cigarette butt bins and working with Vancouver Coastal Health, the District could look for opportunities to advocate for a provincial EPR program that includes cigarette butts.

## 6.2 Sustainability

Cigarette butts make up a small portion of the total waste generated in the District, but are environmentally impactful when littered.

## 6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

Staff have not engaged the community on cigarette butt litter reduction specifically. However, there are requests from the public to the District to do more to address the issue of cigarette butt litter.

The District's Community Engagement Policy will be used should public engagement take place.

## 6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

Various District departments were consulted in the research for this report.

Staff will continue to work across District departments, as well as with other Metro Vancouver municipalities and Vancouver Coastal Health to apply best practices when implementing initiatives to reduce cigarette butt litter.

## 7.0 Options

### 7.1 Recommended Option

THAT

1. staff implement a pilot cigarette butt disposal bin program in 2022;

2. staff work with Vancouver Coastal Health on communication strategies to increase awareness of smoking regulations and reduce cigarette butt litter; and
3. staff report back to Council with an update on the pilot program in Q2 of 2023.

## 7.2 Considered Option

Alternatively, the report titled, "Cigarette Butt Disposal Bins/Outdoor Ashtrays" dated September 3, 2021 and attachments could be received for information.

## 8.0 Conclusion

This report responds to June 28, 2021 Council Motion to provide a report on the implications (financial and otherwise) of providing cigarette butt disposal bins/outdoor ashtrays in our community.

Author:



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Trevor Doré, Engineering Programs Coordinator

Appendices:

Appendix A: Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009

Appendix B: Letter from Vancouver Coastal Health

Appendix C: Pilot Cigarette Butt Bin Locations



District of West Vancouver

## **Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009**

Effective Date: July 27, 2009

### **Consolidated for Convenience Only**

This is a consolidation of the bylaws below. The amendment bylaws have been combined with the original bylaw for convenience only. This consolidation is not a legal document. Certified copies of the original bylaws should be consulted for all interpretations and applications of the bylaw on this subject.

**Amendment Bylaw**  
Bylaw No. 4984, 2018

**Effective Date**  
November 19, 2018

The bylaw numbers in the margin of this consolidation refer to the bylaws that amended the parent bylaw (Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009). The number of any amending bylaw that has been repealed is not referred to in this consolidation.

# Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009

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District of West Vancouver

# Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009

A bylaw to regulate smoking in the District of West Vancouver under the  
*Community Charter*

Previous amendments: *Amendment Bylaw 4984*.

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver deems it expedient to provide for the protection, promotion and preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the District of West Vancouver to regulate smoking in the District of West Vancouver, as in this bylaw more particularly set out;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of West Vancouver enacts as follows:

## Part 1 Citation

1.1 This bylaw may be cited as Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607, 2009.

## Part 2 Severability

2.1 If a portion of this bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section, subsequent, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase.

## Part 3 Previous Bylaw Repeal

3.1 Clean Indoor Air and Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4021, 1996 (adopted on January 6, 1997) and the following amendment bylaws are hereby repealed:

<b>Amendment Bylaw</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Bylaw No. 4158	April 26, 1999

## Part 4 Definitions

4.1 In this bylaw:

“building” means a structure or portion of a building or structure which is used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy and includes premises;

“business” means a business, trade, profession, or other occupation for which a person must obtain a license under Business Licence Bylaw No. 4455, 2005;

“common areas” include, but are not limited to, lobbies, foyers, stairwells, elevators, corridors, cloakrooms, washrooms, food fair seating areas, and other public areas of a building;

“customer service area” means a partially enclosed or unenclosed area, including a balcony, patio, yard or sidewalk, that is part of or connected to or associated with a business or use in a building or premises that includes the service of food or beverages, including alcoholic drinks, to customers or other persons for consumption on site;

“District” means the District of West Vancouver;

“dwelling unit” means a dwelling unit as defined in Zoning Bylaw No. 2200, 1968, as amended from time to time;

“enforcement officer” means the Medical Health Officer serving the District of West Vancouver, a delegate of the Medical Health Officer, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, a member of the West Vancouver Police Department, a member of the West Vancouver Fire Department, and any other person designated by Council;

“premises” means a portion of a building in respect of which a person has exclusive possession;

“Public Transit” includes a school bus, a passenger bus, a ferry and a rapid transit vehicle;

“responsible person” means a person who owns, controls, manages, supervises, or operates:

- (a) a business or other use which occupies all or substantially all of a building,
- (b) a business or other use which occupies premises,
- (c) common areas which includes a strata corporation or cooperative association;
- (d) a customer service area, and
- (e) a person who drives a vehicle for hire.

“School Property” means property that is

- (a) owned or leased by, or operated under the authority of, a board established under the *School Act* or the *Independent School Act*, and
- (b) used for the purposes of delivering educational programs or other learning programs,

and includes real property and improvements.

Bylaw  
4984, 2018

"smoke" or "smoking" means to inhale, exhale, burn or carry a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, hookah pipe, vaping device, e-cigarette, or other lighted or activated electronic smoking device that burns or vapourizes tobacco, cannabis or other weed or substance.

“swimming beach” includes the sand, rocks and logs adjacent to those areas designated as swimming or bathing beaches by the District.

“vehicle for hire” means a vehicle for hire defined in the Vehicle For Hire (Taxi-Cab) Regulation Bylaw No.4381, 2004, as amended from time to time.

Bylaw  
4984, 2018

“Zoning Bylaw” means the District of West Vancouver Zoning Bylaw No. 4662, 2010 as amended from time to time.

## Part 5 Ban on Smoking

5.1 A person shall not smoke:

5.1.1 In a building, except in:

- (a) A dwelling unit defined under the Zoning Bylaw including a dwelling unit in which an owner or occupier also carries on a business.
- (b) A hotel or motel room or suite designated for smoking by a responsible person, or
- (c) Enclosed premises:
  - (i) That are not open to the public,
  - (ii) Where the only occupants are the owner or owners of the business carried on in the premises;

- 5.1.2 In a vehicle for hire;
- 5.1.3 On public transit including a school bus, passenger bus, ferry, or rapid transit;
- 5.1.4 In, or within six (6) metres of, an enclosed or partially enclosed shelter where people wait to board a vehicle for hire or public transit;
- 5.1.5 In a customer service area;
- 5.1.6 In common areas;
- 5.1.7 Within six (6) metres of the perimeter of a customer service area; or
- 5.1.8 Within six (6) metres measured on the ground from a point directly below any point of any opening into any building including any door or window that opens or any air intake;

#### Ban on Smoking in Parks or Municipal Facility Sites

- 5.2 A person shall not smoke:
  - 5.2.1 On any swimming beach or in a wading or swimming pool;
  - 5.2.2 within the areas of a municipal park, or playground where there are playing fields, picnic eating areas and picnic areas, food concessions or children's play equipment present, or organized fitness activities taking place;
  - 5.2.3 in any Municipal and/or Public building including daycares, recreation and community centres;
  - 5.2.4 on the grounds of any municipal recreational facility, including skate board parks; or
  - 5.2.5 Within six (6) metres of those places outlined in section 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 or 5.2.4.

## **Part 6 Required Signage and Duties of Responsible Person**

- 6.1 Except as permitted by Section 5.1, a responsible person must not suffer or allow a person to smoke in:
  - 6.1.1 A building or customer service area;

- 6.1.2 Premises or common areas;
  - 6.1.3 An area described in section 5.1.5 or 5.1.7 except to the extent that all or part of such area is not part of the parcel on which the building or customer service area is situated and is not an area over which such responsible person has possession or control;  
or
  - 6.1.4 In a vehicle for hire.
- 6.2 Where smoking is prohibited pursuant to sections 5.1 and 6.1 a responsible person must display, at all times, or ensure the display of, a sign:
- 6.2.1 At each entrance to a building or customer service area or to premises, or in a vehicle for hire. The sign must state  
  
“THIS IS A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT – NO SMOKING”
  - 6.2.2 on each exterior wall of a building. The sign must state:  
  
“SMOKING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN SIX (6) METRES OF OPENINGS INTO THIS BUILDING INCLUDING DOORS AND WINDOWS THAT OPEN AND ANY AIR INTAKE”
  - 6.2.3 on outdoor customer service areas, clearly visible from each table or placed on each table. The sign must state:  
  
“THIS OUTDOOR CUSTOMER SERVICE AREA IS A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT – NO SMOKING”
  - 6.2.4 on the exterior wall, fence or other structure demarking an outdoor customer service area. The sign must state:  
  
“SMOKING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN SIX (6) METRES OF CUSTOMER SERVICE AREAS”
- 6.3 All signs referred to in section 6.2 must:
- 6.3.1 Include the text “Bylaw 4607” in letters not less than one-quarter of the height of all other letters on the sign;
  - 6.3.2 Display the international symbol to designate “No Smoking”, or, in areas where smoking is permitted, the international symbol “Smoking Permitted”, which symbol must occupy at least 25% of the size of the sign;
  - 6.3.3 Consist of at least two contrasting colours, except that if the lettering is on a clear panel then the lettering must contrast to the colour of the background;

- 6.3.4 Be at least 30 cm by 15 cm;
- 6.3.5 Be clearly visible; and
- 6.3.6 Except for the text specified in subsection 6.3.1, consist of lettering, whether upper case or lower case, that is not less than the following heights based upon the following maximum viewing distances in direct line of sight:

Viewing Distance	Letter Height
3 metres or less	1 centimetre
3 metres to 6 metres	2 centimetres
6 metres to 12 metres	4 centimetres

- 6.4 A person must not remove, alter, conceal, deface or destroy any sign required under this Bylaw.

## **Part 7 Power to Inspect**

- 7.1 An enforcement officer has the right of entry and may enter onto any land, into any vehicle, or into any building to which this bylaw applies, at all reasonable hours, in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this bylaw are being complied with.

## **Part 8 Obstruct/Interfere with Enforcement Officer**

- 8.1 No person may hinder, delay or obstruct in any manner, directly or indirectly, an Enforcement Officer carrying out duties in accordance with this Bylaw.

## **Part 9 Offence and Penalty**

- 9.1 Every person who violates a provision of this bylaw, or who consents, allows or permits an act or thing to be done in violation of a provision of this bylaw, or who neglects to or refrains from doing anything required to be done by a provision of this bylaw, is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00.
- 9.2 Each day that a violation continues or exists under this Bylaw is a separate offence.

READ A FIRST TIME on July 6, 2009

READ A SECOND TIME on July 6, 2009

READ A THIRD TIME on July 6, 2009

APPROVED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH on July 27, 2009

ADOPTED by the Council on July 27, 2009.

*[Original signed by Mayor]*

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Mayor

*[Original signed by Corporate Officer]*

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Corporate Officer

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Vancouver Coastal Health  
 5<sup>th</sup> floor - 132 West Esplanade  
 North Vancouver, BC V7M 1A2  
 604 983 6701

September 10, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council, District of West Vancouver,

Thank you for reaching out to Vancouver Coastal Health to provide feedback on the installation of cigarette waste receptacles in public places in the District of West Vancouver.

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable mortality and morbidity worldwide. Cigarette butts are the leading littered item in cities and on our shorelines<sup>i</sup>. The use of cigarette waste receptacles will have the most impact when they are part of a comprehensive strategy that endeavors to reduce smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, fires, and litter<sup>ii</sup>.

A comprehensive strategy may include:

- promotion of cessation services such as QuitNow Services and the BC Smoking Cessation Program
- promotion of the benefits of smoke-free spaces and creation of smoke-free zones/streets
- enforcement of the Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607 (e.g. fines)
- creation of a campaign to shift public attitudes on cigarette littering
- implementation of a litter clean-up strategy that includes a deposit-return program as an incentive
- creation of a bylaw requiring business owners to clean up the sidewalks adjacent to their businesses (similar to how businesses are required to remove snow etc.)
- consideration of a cigarette waste tax added to the sale of cigarettes to fund cigarette litter clean-up campaigns

There are some concerns related to cigarette waste receptacles that should be considered as follows:

#### **Location of Receptacles**

Receptacles often become unsanctioned designated smoking areas and create a higher concentration of toxic second-hand smoke wherever they are placed<sup>iii</sup>; therefore these receptacles should not be placed within locations where smoking and/or vaping is banned or co-located with street furniture or bus shelters. To reinforce the health benefits of the existing smoking bylaw in the District of West Vancouver, receptacles should be placed more than 6m from any parks or municipal facilities sites listed in the Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 4607.

#### **Partnering with the Tobacco Industry**

We would like to caution the District of West Vancouver from partnering with TerraCycle's UNSMOKE Cigarette Recycling Program. While seeming well intentioned, this program is an attempt for Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc. (financial sponsor to UNSMOKE) to improve its public image in British Columbia, while shifting its responsibility of tobacco litter onto its customers<sup>iv</sup>. Tobacco companies and their supporters claim that smoking bans have exacerbated cigarette butt waste, however to date that claim has not been

supported by empirical research<sup>v</sup>. Cigarette filters currently made in Canada are non-biodegradable and cigarette butts are mainly composed of the filter which end up in our environment. The UNSMOKE Cigarette Recycling Program gives the false impression to environmentally conscious consumers and members of the public that the solution to cigarette litter is TerraCycle's UNSMOKE Cigarette Recycling Program rather than a decrease in consumption of tobacco<sup>vi</sup>. The benefit for Rothmans, Benson and Hedges Inc. by sponsoring this program is a reduction in complaints of the environmental impact of cigarette litter, an argument against increased tobacco regulations, and the renormalization of tobacco use<sup>vii</sup>.

Vancouver Coastal Health supports a comprehensive strategy to address cigarette butt litter in the District of West Vancouver that is free from tobacco and vapour product industry sponsorship. Our Public Health programs, including the Tobacco & Vapor Products Reduction Program, are available to collaborate with District staff to develop an effective strategy to reduce smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, fires and litter. Feel free to contact to contact the Tobacco and Vapour Products Reduction Coordinator on the North Shore at 604-986-6711.

Sincerely,



**Alexandra Choi, MD MHS CCFP FRCPC**

Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health

mobile 604-816-4944  
office 604-983-6701  
e-mail alexandra.choi1@vch.ca

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<sup>i</sup> Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. (2012). Facts and figures. Retrieved from <http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/en/content/facts-figures>

<sup>ii</sup> Patel, V., Thomson, G. W., & Wilson, N. (2013). Cigarette butt littering in city streets: a new methodology for studying and results. *Tobacco control*, 22(1), 59-62.

<sup>iii</sup> Hwang, J., & Lee, K. (2013). Determination of outdoor tobacco smoke exposure by distance from a smoking source. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, ntt178.

<sup>iv</sup> Smith, E. A., & McDaniel, P. A. (2011). Covering their butts: responses to the cigarette litter problem. *Tobacco control*, 20(2), 100-106.

<sup>v</sup> Badenhorst C, Bhika S, Bye E, et al. (2009). Butt Wait, There's More? A Report on the Interaction Between Cigarette Litter and the Tobacco Industry. Wellington: University of Otago. <http://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/otago030918.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Forsythe, J. (2010). Smoke-Free Outdoor Public Spaces: A Community Advocacy Toolkit. Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

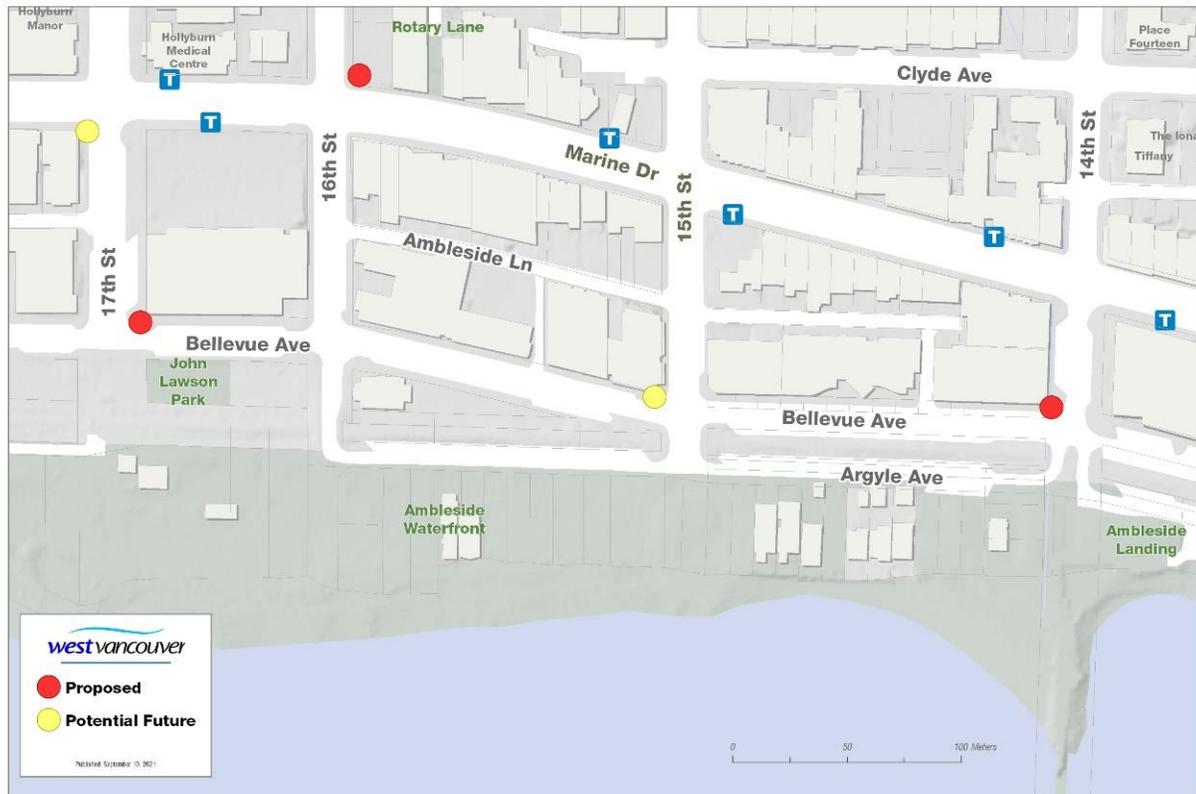
<sup>vii</sup> Smith, E. A., & McDaniel, P. A. (2011). Covering their butts: responses to the cigarette litter problem. *Tobacco control*, 20(2), 100-106.

# Appendix C: Pilot Cigarette Butt Bin Locations

## Horseshoe Bay



## Ambleside



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