

**STAFF REPORT TO THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT  
HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005**

**SUBJECT**

**A BYLAW REGULATING TANNING FACILITIES**

**BACKGROUND**

In May 2000, the US Department of Health and Human Services released the Report on Carcinogens (RoC), 9<sup>th</sup> edition, and listed exposure to *ultraviolet radiation from sunlamp and sunbeds* as a “known human carcinogen”. Melanoma and other skin cancers were associated with increasing duration of exposure and the effects were pronounced in people under 30 years of age and those who experience sunburn.

In 2002, research on tanning facilities found users were 2.5 times more likely to develop squamous cell-type skin cancer and 1.5 times more likely to develop basal cell-type skin cancer than those who did not report using tanning devices. As well, the cancer risks increased by 20% and 10% respectively, for each additional decade younger participants used a tanning device.

On March 17, 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that no person under 18 years of age should use a tanning bed:

‘There has been mounting concern over the past several years that people and in particular, teenagers are using sunbeds excessively to acquire tans which are seen as socially desirable. However, the consequence of this sunbed usage has been a precipitous rise in the number of skin cancer cases’, said Dr. Kerstin Leitner, WHO Assistant Director-General responsible for environmental health. ‘We are therefore calling attention to this fact and we would hope that this recommendation will inspire regulatory authorities to adopt stricter controls on the usage of sunbeds’.

On March 18, 2005, the American Academy of Dermatology issued a statement endorsing the World Health Organization’s recommendation to restrict tanning bed use.

Internationally only a few countries have effective tanning regulations. In the United States, twenty-six states regulate tanning facilities and their use, with a variety of age restrictions. In Canada, both Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have tanning regulations that recommend prohibition for youth under age 18.

Regulatory action is supported by the Provincial Health Officer, the Radiation Protection Branch of the BC Center for Disease Control, and by the Medical Health Officers’ Council of British Columbia.

**DISCUSSION**

A survey sample of the 35 tanning facilities in the CRD found a variety of age restrictions that ranged from none to 19 years of age with scant usage documentation.

It is recognized that the WHO recommendation is restriction of sunbed use for youth less than 18 years of age, therefore it is proposed to restrict tanning facility use in the Capital Regional District to youth 18 years of age and older.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Health Facilities Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board, sitting as the Local Board of Health, approval of a bylaw regulating tanning facilities.

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