



CRITICAL BYLAW DECISION ON UNDER AGE TANNING

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and nearly everyone has been touched by the disease in some way. In 2009, more than 850 new cases of melanoma, the most deadly variety, were diagnosed and 144 people died from this skin cancer in British Columbia.

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is the primary, recognized risk factor for malignant melanoma and other skin cancers. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified **all** forms of UVR, **including tanning equipment**, as a *known* Class A carcinogen for humans. In response, the World Health Organization, the Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Dermatology Association, the Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC) and others recommend restricting access to commercial tanning beds by banning use for those under the age of 18 years.

On January 12, 2011, the Capital Regional District Board, as the Local Board of Health will consider Bylaw (No. 3711) to restrict individuals under the age of 18 years from using commercial tanning facilities in our Region. The details of the bylaw and supporting submissions can be viewed at www.crd.bc.ca/hfp/localboard/initiatives.htm.

A recent survey by Vision Critical, an independent international survey and research firm, found that **80% of CRD residents** would support the proposed age restriction.

Support for this Bylaw from individuals working in the health field will be one factor that will encourage the CRD Board to proceed with the bylaw. If you are supportive of protecting our region's children and youth from this established cancer causing agent, please send a friendly and novel seasonal greeting of support to CRD Board of Directors courtesy of the Public Health Association of British Columbia.

Log on to the following site <http://www.phabc.org/modules.php?name=ecard> and choose your e-card. The link is available until the day of the Board Hearing, January 12, 2011.

Public Health Association of British Columbia