

## Smoking ban

Well, The Globe and Mail has published a lot of letters supporting the smoking bans and tobacco legislation. Are you willing to publish a dissenting opinion?

Toronto's blanket smoking ban is not about public health; it's about government paternalism and the attempt to legislate morality.

How else can we explain a blanket ban of smoking in restaurants and bars, when the free market already provided both smoke-free and smoking establishments? No one forces anyone to enter a bar where smoking is permitted.

What's next? Will we prohibit restaurants from serving dessert to obese people in the interests of public health? What ever happened to "public sanity?"

David Romano, Toronto

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Now that the guardians of Toronto's health have banned smoking in effectively all the city's bars, taverns and restaurants, they must be looking for new peaks to conquer, and they will not have to look far. There are many antidrinking organizations to apply pressure. The effects of alcohol are well known, both primary (cirrhosis of the liver, kidney disease, brain damage) and second-hand (public and private violence, road traffic accidents, vandalism). How soon can we expect a bill banning the sale of wine, beer and liquor in the restaurants and bars of the city?

A. G. Rigg, Toronto

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So the Liberals have not come close to making the point that restrictions on tobacco advertising will lead to a reduction in the incidence of smoking among young people (Speaking Freely About Smoking — editorial, March 5). The following Statscan figures are provided with your March 8 front-page article: One in five deaths in Canada are attributed to smoking; in Quebec, the number is one in four. The average age of becoming a "regular smoker" in Canada is 15; in Quebec, it is 14. Fifty per cent of all sponsorship dollars provided by tobacco companies are spent in Quebec. Coincidence?

Larry Cobb, Toronto