

## Anti-smoking fight wastes time

Your Sept. 4 article about teen smoking points out that rates in Quebec have risen dramatically since 1991. You then follow the typical, unimaginative journalistic practice of solely repeating the views of various health experts and anti-tobacco activists.

The people quoted are the same ones that, since well before 1991, have been spending a lot of government money and passing countless regulations to curtail youth smoking. What effect have their efforts produced? – a rise in teen smoking.

These experts concede that many young people smoke to rebel against authority; then, in the same breath, they advocate more anti-smoking campaigns and harsher government crackdowns on teen smoking. They even point to our freedom-loving neighbours to the south, where in some states teenage tobacco possession is criminalized and young smokers sent to detention centres.

Perhaps enough is enough. The billions of dollars spent funding such health experts and activists could be better placed.



### Teenagers light up.

Many of us are tired of their time-consuming, meddlesome efforts to save everyone's kids. Whatever happened to parents taking responsibility for their kids?

If we leave the issue alone, maybe teenagers will find a new way, other than smoking, to upset adults.

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