

## Teaming Up For Tobacco Free Schools

As many are aware, the *Smoke-Free Environment Policy* came into effect in September 2006. Since that time, a number of schools have incorporated the importance of being tobacco free into their school's living healthy messages. In 2007, Eastern Health again launched the *Smoke Free Program*, designed for children ages 3-6. This program was positively received by kindergarten children in the rural part of the region in past years. *Smoke Free* provides the opportunity for children to become aware of the benefits of living a smoke-free lifestyle and encourages parents to be positive role models by creating a smoke-free environment for their children. Further expansion of this program occurred during *National Non-Smoking Week* and is supported by the Regional Wellness Coalitions and the Department of Health and Community Services.

Last month, during *National Non Smoking Week* (January 20-26), The Health Promotion Division at Eastern Health distributed *Clever Catch Tobacco Balls* and related tobacco education information to junior high schools in the region. The intention is to help schools continue to promote tobacco free messages for youth.

Schools are encouraged to take time to avail of these and other tobacco related resources and celebrate the school's *Smoke-Free Environment Policy*.

For further information on tobacco control resources/programs, please contact Eastern Health, Health Promotion Division:

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