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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘HALF OF BC RESIDENTS SAY BAN SMOKING FROM OUTDOOR PUBLIC AREAS’ – NRG POLL

Vancouver, BC – An NRG poll done this summer found that just over half of British Columbians would like to see smoking prohibited from outdoor public areas such as restaurant patios.

The study by NRG found that 53 percent of BC residents feel smoking should be banned from outdoor public areas. Seventy six percent of British Columbians feel that smoking should be banned from indoor facilities.

“When we asked people whether smoking should be allowed in bars and restaurants, 42 percent said this was okay so long as employees and customers are warned about this in advance,” said Dr. Adam Di Paula, Senior Vice President of NRG. “Similarly, 62 percent said the smoking in bars and restaurants should be permitted if it is done in a separate, sealed off area that is designated as a smoking area.”

“What these data would suggest is that most people feel smokers should be free to smoke so long as they don’t expose other people to smoke,” said Di Paula. “It seems most British Columbians believe that smoking in a specified indoor area is okay provided people are warned in advance that they are entering a smoking environment.”

About the survey

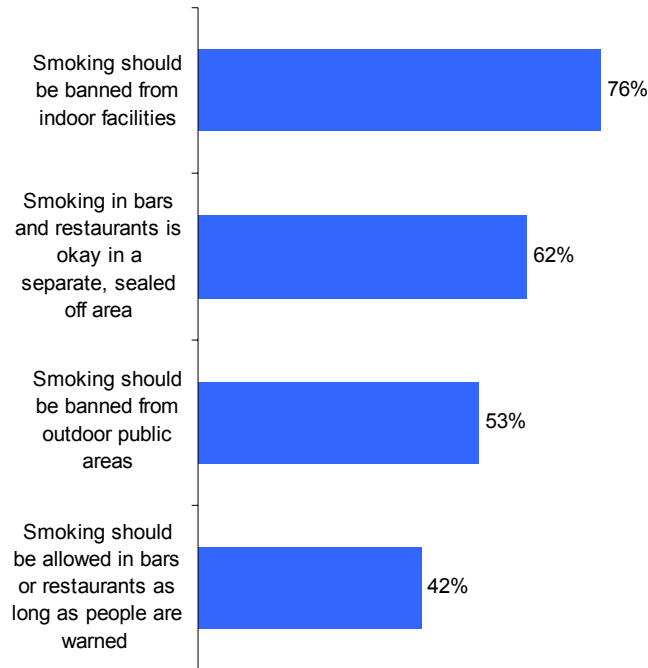
Eight hundred and six randomly selected BC residents, proportionate to the province’s population, were interviewed on the issue of smoking for NRG Research Group’s monthly omnibus – **Ask BC**, BC’s leading monthly omnibus survey. Overall results are accurate to within +/- 3.5 percent, 19 times out of 20 and were collected from May 31 – June 5, 2005.

About NRG Research Group

NRG Research Group was formed in June 2005 from a merger between Western Opinion Research and Nordic Research Group. NRG is one of Canada’s leading market and public

opinion research firms. NRG provides both quantitative and qualitative research services through its Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Halifax offices to clients throughout North America and worldwide.

Agreement with the following statements...



Data collected May 31 - June 5, 2005 from 806 randomly selected British Columbians.

Source: NRG Research Group

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