

**Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco
Campagne Ontarienne D'Action Contre le Tabac**

NEWS ADVISORY

Founding Agencies:

Canadian Cancer Society–Ontario Division
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario
Non-Smokers' Rights Association
Ontario Lung Association
Ontario Medical Association

For Immediate Release:
June 4, 2003

**B.C. COURT TO DECIDE WHETHER PROVINCE CAN SUE TOBACCO
INDUSTRY TO RECOVER HEALTH CARE COSTS**

Positive decision could set precedent for Ontario, other Canadian provinces

Supporting Agencies:

Alcohol and Drug Concerns Inc.
Association of Local Public Health
Agencies
Cancer Care Ontario
Ontario Association of Children's Aid
Societies
Ontario Association of Naturopathic
Doctors
Ontario Federation of Home and School
Associations
Ontario Physical and Health Education
Association
Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada
Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
The Ontario College of Family Physicians

Toronto – In a decision to be released at 3:30 p.m. EDT, Thursday, June 5th, the B.C. Supreme Court will decide on the constitutionality of a provincial statute facilitating a provincial government lawsuit against the tobacco industry to recover health care costs incurred from treatment of smoking-related illnesses.

A decision upholding the statute could allow a cost recovery lawsuit to proceed immediately in British Columbia, and would provide a legislative template for all other provinces to sue the tobacco industry on similar grounds.

A cost recovery lawsuit launched by the Ontario government in the U.S. in 1999 did not move forward because the U.S. courts ruled that a foreign government could not initiate such a lawsuit in the U.S.

The website for B.C. Supreme Court decisions is: <http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/sc/Sc-main.htm>

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Give Kids A Chance

*Donner Une Chance
Aux Enfants*

For more on the legal issues involved in the case:

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For more on the policy and financial implications of the decision in Ontario:

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