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Edited by Gina de Vries and Diane Anderson-Minshall
Foreword by Zoe Trope

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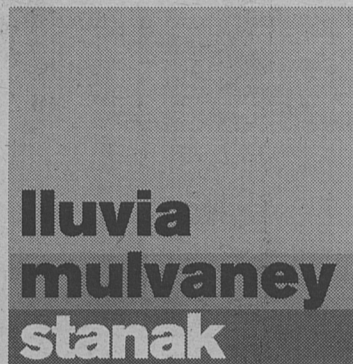
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Views: Outright's New Year Resolution

The 2006 Tobacco Tax Resolution is reproduced below. This resolution is being circulated by a growing collaboration of traditional (American Cancer Society, Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont, Heart & Lung Associations) and non-traditional anti-tobacco organizations, like Outright Vermont!

Essentially, this resolution is an important piece of a larger campaign to address, prevent and stop tobacco use here in Vermont. Our hope is to have the tobacco tax increased on both cigarettes and chewing tobacco by the end of the 2006 legislative session. (The last increase was in 2003 for cigarettes, but other tobacco products haven't had a tax increase in 10 years!) It has been proven that one of the effective ways to decrease smoking rates across the board, is to continue to make the

tobacco products out of the price range of those who might use them. Plus, the revenue raised by the tobacco tax can and does get returned to tobacco prevention efforts. These efforts help round out the holistic approach that is needed to complete prevention work (quit



Youth Risk Behavior Survey results (2005) that queer youth are two times more likely to smoke than their heterosexual peers? And that overall, more than 1/2 of all sexually active queer youth in Vermont smoke?

For these reasons and many more, Outright Vermont is part of this collaboration and it is

**Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont
Resolution to Reduce Tobacco Use and Improve the Health of Vermonters**

WHEREAS, Every year, 1600 Vermont children become addicted to tobacco and 14,000 kids under 18 alive today in Vermont will die prematurely from smoking¹; and

WHEREAS, increasing Vermont's cigarette tax by 81 cents to \$2.00 would significantly reduce the number of youth who smoke, would save a projected \$102.8 million in long term health care costs, and would provide additional state revenues, including an estimated \$19.6 million in FY2007²; and

WHEREAS, currently 12% of high school boys (up from 8% in 2003) and 2% of high school girls (up from 1% in 2003) use chew/spit tobacco³;

WHEREAS, currently Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning (GLBQ) youth are more than two times more likely to smoke than their heterosexual peers⁴;

WHEREAS, currently the smoking rate of low income Vermonters is significantly higher than Vermonters in higher income groups, and continues to rise where other populations are decreasing⁵;

WHEREAS, Vermont has the second lowest cigarette tax in the region including all of New England, New York and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, funds from the tax increase would support state programs that will advance the health of all Vermonters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned organization endorses:

- Increasing the Vermont cigarette tax by 81 cents; and all other tobacco products (OTIP) tax from 41% to 90% of wholesale price (first increase since 1995);
- Using money raised by this increase in the cigarette and other tobacco taxes to fund state programs that will advance the health of Vermont citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned organization will:

- Inform its members and, if possible, the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution; and,
- Inform the Governor and members of the Legislature of its endorsement of this Resolution, to the extent permitted by law, and urge its constituency to do so.

Signed on _____ by _____
(date) (authorized signature)

Name of Organization: _____

Number of Members (if applicable): _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Person's email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please return to: Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont
P.O. Box 1460, Williston, VT 05495 Fax: 872-6399, or e-mail at: info@tobaccofreevermont.org

¹ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, "The Toll of Tobacco in Vermont", 2005
² Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, "Benefits from a Cigarette Tax Increase in Vermont, 2005"
³ Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2003 and 2005
⁴ Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005
⁵ Vermont Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System, 1998-2004

December 2005

help, support groups, prevention education, outreach materials, etc.).

I am sure I don't need to tell you that tobacco use is harmful no matter what your age, sexual orientation or gender may be. But did you know that according to the most recent

my hope that the many folks who support Outright will get their organizations and businesses that you work for/with to sign onto this resolution. Simply print it out and mail or email it back to Tobacco Free Vermont.

Thanks everyone. ▼