

Concerning Bill 102 From: Patricia MacDonald Bruce, Smart Tan Certified, Owner/Operator, of the Sun Center for 25 years.

I am offended that after repeatedly asking for the statistics that these new laws are based on, that as of yet I have not received any. The public have not been shown any studies, but have been lead by false fears fed to the media. Unfortunately the tanning industry is not allowed to promote our services or all of the benefits it provides. I do have customers that are under 19, but demographically they are a low percentage, and I ask their age and get a parents signature on the consent if 16 or under. I have never had a problem with this approach and the parents will either give their OK or not. Most teens that tan have a medical reason to tan or their parents would rather they tan in a controlled environment (timed) rather than over expose out doors. Most young people now do not get the light exposure they did in the past in any form, I contend that this may be the cause of some of the public's health issues. Even if people go out for short times now they are encouraged to contaminate their bodies with SPF's chemicals even when they have no chance of burning.

If this legislation is passed will it become criminally negligent for a parent to have allowed their child to get a sun burn? Since tanning is compared to drinking and smoking will the government eventually ban the production of tanning equipment like, tobacco unless licenced to produce; or govern the sale of tanning and open NSTCs like the NSLCs or will this be done at hospitals and dermatologist's offices. Who will profit from this legislation? Doctors and Dermatologists for sure, they will have control of treatments that my customers have been referred, by some doctors, to come to me for. They get some of their equipment from the same companies that I get mine from.

I believe that young adults (16 - 18) that can drive cars, hold jobs and get insurance can make their own educated decision to tan if they would like to. By Eighteen you can vote, and are most likely living on your own or at University or College. It is insulting to think that a government wants to take control over our childrens bodily choices, if this is where it starts, where will it end?

I myself have tanned since the age of 21 approximately 2 - 3 times a week. My doctor had no problem with me tanning or with tanning through pregnancy. I also have clients who are doctors and nurses, whose families have tanned with me, some being under 19.

There is never going to be a time that a doctor would prescribe a young patient to, go smoke a cigarette or have a drink, there are no benefits....tanning is not the same. Informed doctors have referred under 19 year olds to have light treatments for a multitude of reasons, the right to free speech is limited here due to noncompetition laws. I challenge the government to produce all of the information on every kind of medical condition and cancer with stats for non-tanners, outdoor tanners, indoor tanners, young and older tanners; and then publish them.

What will happen if this bill goes through is a law will be established without any real public consent, because they have not been fully informed. We all deserve to make our own informed decisions, the Nova Scotian and Canadian people should not be treated as if we are uneducated or to be lead without proper debate on laws. Since this is being discussed without time to arrange someone to work for me, and I live about two hours away, it is impossible for me to be there during business hours. I will most likely close my business if this law comes to pass, mainly, I refuse to remain under these regulations. If all of the proper information is out there, maybe every few years this issue would not be revisited and more money could be spent on our roads so our teens could drive safely. This would benefit all under 19 year olds, not just the few that need or want to tan.