

ILLEGAL TOBACCO

KNOW THE FACTS!

Illegal tobacco:

- Is cigarettes or other tobacco that is smuggled off First Nations reserves without the payment of taxes,
- gets into the hands of youth because of low prices and easy access,
- is against the law to possess or sell,
- makes it harder for people to quit, and
- generates money for organized crime, while millions of tax dollars—that could be used for such things as health care and education—are lost.

For more information, contact:

Algoma Public Health

705-759-5286

www.algomapublichealth.com



ONTARIO – CANADA DUTY PAID – DROIT ACQUITTÉ

Legal Cigarettes have:

- * A **stamp** on the package and a **yellow tear tape** on the cellophane wrapper.
- * **Health Canada** warnings.



Illegal Cigarettes

- * Do not have yellow tear tape or have a different colour tear tape or no stamp.
- * Often do not have Health Canada warnings.
- * Are often sold in clear plastic bags.

If caught with illegal tobacco, a person faces the following penalties:

Number of Illegal Cigarettes	Penalty
Possession of up to 200 illegal cigarettes	\$100 plus three times the tax.*
Possession of 201 - 1,000 illegal cigarettes.	\$250 plus three times the tax.*
Possession of 1,001 – 10,000 illegal cigarettes	\$500 plus three times the tax.*
Possession of more than 10,000 illegal cigarettes	\$500 plus three times the tax.*
Possession of any number of illegal cigarettes for the purpose of sale	\$500 plus three times the tax.*

*Current tax is 12.35 cents per cigarette.

Source: Ministry of Finance and Ontario Tobacco Tax Act