

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Minister

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Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

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His Worship R. Bratina, Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

I am responding to your letter to the Honourable Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, inviting the ministry to be part of your consultations on electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

As you may know, the regulation of e-cigarettes in Canada falls under federal jurisdiction. Health Canada has ruled that e-cigarettes that contain nicotine and/or make health claims fall within the scope of the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and its regulations, including the Food and Drug Regulations and the Medical Devices Regulations. Under this federal legislation, e-cigarettes that contain nicotine and/or make health claims must be approved by Health Canada in order to be sold, imported or marketed in Canada, and comply with certain labelling and manufacturing requirements.

Our government is committed to having the lowest smoking rate in Canada. As part of this commitment, we have taken additional action to protect the health of the people of Ontario, especially our youth.

As you are now likely aware, on November 25, 2014, I introduced Bill 45, *the Making Healthier Choices Act*, which if passed, would amend the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* to regulate the sale, promotion and use of e-cigarettes. These measures will protect youth from the dangers of tobacco and support our vision for a smoke-free Ontario. As we move forward with this proposed legislation, we would welcome any further input.

Ontario is also committed to gathering the best available evidence on e-cigarettes and continues to monitor emerging research and actions other jurisdictions are taking.

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Mayor Bratina

Regarding your invitation to be part of consultations on e-cigarettes, I have forwarded a copy of your letter to staff in the ministry's Health Promotion Division. I know they will be interested in hearing the outcomes of your consultations.

Thank you for taking the time to write about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dipika Damerla', written in a cursive style.

Dipika Damerla
Associate Minister