



La Mairesse de Montréal

April 20, 2018

Mr. Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
2nd Floor, Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton (Ontario) L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

On February 19, Montreal City Council unanimously adopted resolution CM18 0276. You will find attached a copy of our non-partisan motion in support of a bold and coherent federal tobacco control strategy.

The federal government held consultations in 2016 and 2017 with the goal of adopting a new tobacco control strategy in 2018. The federal government has shown a willingness and commitment to reduce Canada's smoking rate to less than 5% by 2035.

All Canadian cities are obviously concerned by this issue because of the serious consequences of smoking on the health and well-being of their citizens. It is in this context that I invite you to join your voice to that of the City of Montreal in adopting this motion, which aims to encourage the federal government to adopt a comprehensive and ambitious strategy to combat this phenomenon.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Valérie Plante".

Valérie Plante

Encl. : Resolution CM18 076

Non-partisan support for a bold and coherent federal tobacco control strategy

Whereas the 2012-2017 Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FTCS) expires on March 31, 2018 and the federal government intends to develop a new path for tobacco control in the coming years;

Whereas Canada is one of the 181 Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control since 2005,

Whereas according to the most recent statistics, despite a decrease in smoking during the period 2012-2017 from the FTCS, Health Canada estimates that in 2015 alone, 115,000 Canadians started to smoke cigarettes on a daily basis;

Whereas tobacco products kill 45,000 Canadians each year (one every 12 minutes) and annual health and economic costs of tobacco use are estimated at \$ 16 billion;

Whereas during its recent public consultation for the planning of a new FTCS aimed at reducing smoking to less than 5% by 2035, Health Canada has presented a series of measures targeting youth, vulnerable populations, smoking more high among Inuit and First Nations communities and promoting education and public awareness policies on the risks associated with tobacco use;

Whereas Health Canada is proposing that Canadian jurisdictions increase tobacco taxes so that they account for 80% of the cost of a pack of cigarettes in order to reduce their consumption;

Whereas City Council has already signaled its support for important measures aimed at reducing smoking and its misdeeds, including through motions calling for the use of the neutral package for tobacco products, the prohibition of smoking in children's play areas and sports fields, as well as subjecting the electronic cigarette to smoke-free measures;

It is moved by M. Marvin Rotrand seconded by Mr Luis Miranda

And resolved:

That the municipal council:

1-Supports Health Canada's goal of reducing smoking rates below 5% by 2035;

2-Reiterates its support for the neutral and standardized packaging of tobacco products, so that Canada can follow the example of nations such as Australia, France, the United Kingdom and Ireland;

3- Calls on the Government of Canada to fulfill its obligations as a signatory to the WHO FCTC by adopting a comprehensive and bold strategy, including the funding needed to respond to an epidemic that Quebec only, kills about 13,000 people a year;

4- Calls on the Government of Canada to support the efforts of the provinces, territories, Aboriginal communities and civil society;

5- Calls on the Government of Canada to re-establish adequate funding for the Grants and Contributions component of the next FTCS, including funding for monitoring, analysis and policy advocacy by NGOs, as recommended by the Government of Canada; Framework Convention;

6- That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the attention of the mayors of major Canadian cities, inviting them to consider its adoption with a view to promoting the health of their own citizens;

7- That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the attention of the Honorable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Federal Minister of Health, for consideration while the FTCS is finalized.

A debate begins.

Councilor Marvin Rotrand presents a copy of a letter from the Regional Directorate of Public Health addressed to the Mayor of Montréal, Mrs. Valérie Plante, supporting this motion.