



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

March 04, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier of Ontario
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
christine.elliottco@ola.org

Dear Minister Elliott,

Re: Strengthening the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 to address the promotion of vaping

At the February 26, 2019 regular meeting of the Board of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) the Board considered the attached correspondence from Peterborough Public Health urging the Ontario government to strengthen the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 to prohibit through regulation, the promotion of vaping products.

The following motion was recommended by the Stakeholder Relations Committee and accepted by the Board on February 26, 2019:

Resolution: # 3 SRC 2019-Feb-08

A motion by M. A. Aikens; seconded by J. Dumas; be it resolved that the Stakeholder Relations Committee recommend to the Board that the RCDBH support the correspondence from Peterborough Health Unit urging the province to strengthen the Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017 and prohibit the promotion of vaping products and further that it be cc as per the Sudbury letter.

Carried

Sincerely,

Janice Visneskie Moore
Chair, Board of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

cc (via email): The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Office of Health
 The Honourable John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Ontario Boards of Health

Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, association of Local Public Health Agencies

Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Associations

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Jacquie Maund, Alliance for Healthier Communities

7 International Drive, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5 • www.rcdhu.com

• Health Info Line 613-735-8666 • Health Promotion & Clinical Services 613-735-8651 • Dental 613-735-8661
• Immunization 613-735-8653 • Environmental Health 613-735-8654 • Reception 613-732-3629 • Fax 613-735-3067
Toll Free: 1-800-267-1097



Jackson Square, 185 King Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8
P: 705-743-1000 or 1-877-743-0101
F: 705-743-2897
peterboroughpublichealth.ca

November 5, 2018

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4
christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Elliott,

Re: Strengthening the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (2017) to address the promotion of vaping

At its meeting on October 10, 2018, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health passed a motion to urge the Ontario government to strengthen the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (2017) and prohibit through regulation, the promotion of vaping products.

By and large the changes in the updated Act and regulations are viewed favorably by Peterborough Public Health as it harmonizes medicinal cannabis, recreational cannabis, conventional cigarettes, and e-cigarette laws into one piece of legislation. However, health experts conclude that allowing retail vaping displays and promotion will put thousands of children and youth at risk of nicotine addiction. The legislation only bans actual vaping product displays at retail outlets and does not restrict other types of retail promotion for vaping products. It permits the widespread promotion of vaping products in convenience stores, gas bars and other retail locations across Ontario. This includes freestanding brand promotions now located inside and outside retail locations like gas bars, posters including pictures of products, video product promotion, and many other types of promotion including those featuring actual vaping products, are all allowed. Mass media promotion of vaping produces (i.e., television advertising) has already been seen in Ontario.

Public health representatives are very concerned about the outcome of nicotine exposure on the adolescent brain. There is also more evidence of respiratory health impacts among young vapers. We are sure that these serious health impacts must be of concern to you and the Government of Ontario as well. We agree with a federal commitment to reducing tobacco use to 5% in Ontario by 2035¹ and fear that current promotion of vaping will actually lead to increased tobacco use among youth. Recently released results from the Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS) shows that current smoking rates for Canadians aged 15 years and over have actually increased to 15.1% in 2017 from 13.0% in 2015.² Your action is urgently needed to protect the health of youth in Ontario and avoid an epidemic of vaping and nicotine addiction. We must work collaboratively to ensure that young people do not start smoking or vaping.

In conjunction with the above actions, the Board of Health requests that the Province invest in a timely evaluation of the implementation of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act to monitor the impacts of the limited promotion of vaping products with a commitment to make the required amendments as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Councillor Henry Clarke
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Local MPPs
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ Health Canada (2018). Canada's Tobacco Strategy. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/canada-tobacco-strategy/overview-canada-tobacco-strategy-eng.pdf>

² Statistics Canada (2018). Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS): Summary of results for 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/2017-summary.html>