

May 21, 2019

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On May 16, 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health passed the following Resolution regarding **Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Dwellings** to reduce the exposure of second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing:

Whereas, the federal government has passed the Cannabis Act, 2017 to legalize non-medical cannabis, coming into effect on October 17th, 2018, and

Whereas, cannabis smoke contains many of the same carcinogens, toxins, and irritants found in tobacco smoke with the added psychoactive properties of cannabinoids like THC, and

Whereas, Ontarians spend most of their time at home, and it is in this environment where exposure continues to be reported, and

Whereas, indoor air studies show that, depending on the age and construction of a building, up to 65% of the air in a private residence can come from elsewhere in the building and no one should be unwillingly exposed or forced to move due to unwanted second-hand smoke exposure,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health endorse the following actions and policies to reduce the exposure of second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing:

1. Encourage all landlords and property owners of multi-unit housing to voluntarily adopt no-smoking policies in their rental units or properties and explicitly include cannabis smoke and vaping of any substance in the definition of smoking;
2. All future private sector rental properties and buildings developed in Ontario should be vape and smoke-free from the onset;
3. Encourage public/social housing providers to voluntarily adopt no-smoking and/or vaping policies in their units and/or properties;
4. All future public/social housing developments in Ontario should be smoke and vape-free from the onset.
5. Encourage the Ontario Ministry of Housing to develop government policy and programs to facilitate the provision of smoke-free housing.

AND FURTHER that this resolution be shared with the Honorable Prime Minister of Canada, local Members of Parliament, the Premier of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Minister of Health and Long-term Care, Federal Minister of Health, the Attorney General, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Association, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and local community partners.

We would be pleased to discuss this resolution with you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies – Loretta Ryan
Ontario Boards of Health
WECHU Board of Health
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey