

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

On June 20, 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health passed the following Resolution regarding **Smoke-Free – Smoke/Vape Free Outdoor Spaces** to reduce the exposure of second-hand smoke in outdoor spaces:

Whereas, the legalization of cannabis came into effect October 17, 2018 and the addition of vapour products and cannabis to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, and

Whereas, outdoor sport and recreation areas, parks, beaches, trails, and playgrounds are intended to promote the health and well-being for all Windsor-Essex County residents, and

Whereas, entrances/exits of municipal buildings, and transit shelters/stops, are other areas of exposure to second-hand smoke, cannabis and vaping, and

Whereas, second-hand smoke has proven to be harmful in particular for vulnerable populations such as youth, and

Whereas, youth are increasingly susceptible to the influence of social normalization, and

Whereas, youth uptake of vaping and exposure to cannabis consumption is increasing.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health encourages municipalities to prohibit the smoking or vaping of any substance on all municipally owned outdoor sport and recreation properties, as well as parks, beaches, trails, playgrounds, at minimum, 9m from entrances/exits of municipal buildings, transit shelters, and transit stops.

Further, that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health encourages all Windsor-Essex municipalities to update and adopt smoking by-laws to explicitly prohibit the use of cannabis in public spaces including streets and sidewalks.

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. 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