

From: Alida Gorizzan
To: allhealthunits@lists.alphaweb.org
Subject: FW: CORRESPONDENCE: PPH Board of Health re: Vaping
Date: November 29, 2019 11:44:33 AM
Attachments: [191128 Hajdu Vaping ns.pdf](#)
[encl 190918 SMDHU Ministers Vaping Display and Promotion.pdf](#)
[encl 190927 rev KFLA Reg 268.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Please note I have updated the attachment from KFLA...

ATTN: ONTARIO BOARDS OF HEALTH

From: Alida Gorizzan
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca
Cc: 'christine.elliott@pc.ola.org' <christine.elliott@pc.ola.org>; drtheresa.tam@canada.ca; 'Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca' <Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca>; Maryam Monsef (Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca) <Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca>; Philip Lawrence (Philip.Lawrence@parl.gc.ca) <Philip.Lawrence@parl.gc.ca>; Jamie Schmale - Conservative (Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca) <Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca>; Dave Smith (dave.smith@pc.ola.org) <dave.smith@pc.ola.org>; Dave Piccini (david.piccini@pc.ola.org) <david.piccini@pc.ola.org>; 'laurie.scott@pc.ola.org' <laurie.scott@pc.ola.org>; 'info@alphaweb.org' <info@alphaweb.org>; Rosana Salvaterra <rsalvaterra@peterboroughpublichealth.ca>; 'Carolyn Doris' (cdoris@peterboroughpublichealth.ca) <cdoris@peterboroughpublichealth.ca>
Subject: CORRESPONDENCE: PPH Board of Health re: Vaping
Importance: High

Good morning Minister Hajdu,

Please see the attached correspondence, sent on behalf of Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Board Chair, regarding the above-noted matter.

With thanks,
 Alida Gorizzan

Alida Gorizzan

*Executive Assistant to Dr. Rosana (Pellizzari) Salvaterra,
 Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health
 Peterborough Public Health
 Jackson Square, 185 King St., Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8
 P: 705-743-1000 or 1-877-743-0101, ext. 264 | F: 705-743-1810
 E: agorizzan@peterboroughpublichealth.ca
www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca*

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November 29, 2019

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via e-mail: Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Hajdu,

Congratulations on your appointment as Federal Minister of Health. We look forward to working with you to advance the health and well-being of all Canadians.

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) has been long involved in raising concerns regarding the impact of vaping on non-smokers and in particular, youth. Continuing with this advocacy in order to protect youth in our community is critical. At the October 9, 2019 meeting of the Board of Health, communications from both the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Boards of Health (attached) were reviewed regarding vaping in Ontario.

PPH has provided feedback to a number of Health Canada consultations related to vaping and youth including advertising of vaping products (March 2019), regulatory measures to reduce youth access and appeal of vaping products (June 2019) and labelling and packaging of vaping products (August 2019). PPH responses to these consultations have noted that while vaping may be less harmful than smoking tobacco, it is not harm free. This has been demonstrated most recently by the hospitalization of a young person in the Middlesex-London Health Unit area, following hundreds of hospitalizations and deaths in the United States as a result of vaping-related pulmonary illness.¹

On September 19, 2019, representatives from eight health organizations (Action on Smoking and Health, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Lung Association, Coalition québécoise pour le contrôle du tabac, Heart & Stroke, Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco and Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada) made an appeal for immediate federal action to curb the marketing of vaping products.² These groups urged all federal political parties to commit to an urgent interim order that would put vaping products under the same kind of restrictions that are currently in place for tobacco products. Acceptance of this interim order would result in having protective restraints in place this calendar year using the powers of the Department of Health Act within sixty (60) days of a forming government.

We ask that action using the interim order is taken immediately to curb the marketing of vaping products in order to protect youth and reverse the current trend in both youth vaping and tobacco rates. Vaping products must be under the same kind of restrictions that are currently in place for tobacco products. Acceptance of an interim order using the powers of the Department of Health Act would result in having protective restraints in place this calendar year. Placing stronger restrictions on vape promotion is one of the most obvious solutions to protect the health of Canadians.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Councillor Kathryn Wilson
Chair, Board of Health

/ag
Encl.

cc: Hon. Christine Elliott, Ontario Minister of Health
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Local MPs and MPPs
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ CBC London (September 2019) Ontario teen was on life-support after respiratory illness linked to vaping. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/middlesex-london-health-unit-vaping-respiratory-illness-1.5288065>

² CTV News (September 2019) Canadian health groups concerned about teen vaping call for urgent government action. Retrieved from: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/canadian-health-groups-concerned-about-teen-vaping-call-for-urgent-government-action-1.4601027>

September 18, 2019

Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health 10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Ministers:

On September 18, 2019 the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit approved a motion to write to the Ontario and the federal Ministers of Health calling for stringent restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products and to ban flavoured e-cigarettes to help prevent the further uptake of vaping (and with it, the potential risk of smoking commencement) by youth.

Vaping has been rapidly increasing in our youth. A 74% increase in vaping among youth aged 16-19 in Canada was reported from 2017 to 2018 (jumping to 14.6% from 8.4%).¹ Cigarette smoking in the same period increased 45% to reach 15.5% of youth in this age group from 10.7% a year earlier. This is a concerning given that surveys initiated prior to 2018 had reported an ongoing decline in youth smoking; a finding which is consistent with the conclusions of research suggesting that vaping increases the risk of smoking in youth.² Research has also demonstrated that marketing of vaping products at retail stores is associated with youth and young adult initiation of vaping.³

Although vaping is likely to be less harmful than smoking, vaping is not harm free. Vaping can cause ear, eye, and throat irritation. The fine particles and chemicals that are inhaled into the lungs can aggravate existing lung conditions making it harder to breathe.⁴ The risk of heart attack increases with vape use and using both cigarettes and e-cigarettes increases this risk further.⁵ Nicotine addiction is a significant concern associated with youth vaping. Nicotine can change how the teenage brain develops

¹ Hammond, D., Reid, J.L., Rynard, V.L., Fong, G.T., Gummings, K.M., McNeill, A., & O'Conner, R. (2019). Prevalence of vaping and smoking among adolescents in Canada, England, and the United States: repeat national cross sectional surveys. *Bjm*, 365, I2219.

² <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>

³ Loukas, A, Paddock, M., Li, S., Harrell, M., Pasch, E., Perry, C (2019) Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems Marketing and Initiation Among Youth and Young Adults

⁴ Health Canada. (2019-02-04). Vaping: Get the Facts.

⁵ Hess, CA., Olmedo, P., Navas-Acien, A., Goessier, W., Cohen, JE., & Rule, AM. E-cigarettes as a source of toxic and potentially carcinogenic metals. *Environmental Research*, 2017; 152:221 DOI: 10. 1016/j.envres.2016.09.026

Barrie:
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
B-865 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091

affecting cognitive functions like memory and concentration as well as impulse control and can cause behavioural problems⁶.

A number of serious lung issues associated with vaping occurring in the United States with an unknown etiology has also recently been reported. Health Canada warned in a recent safety alert that vaping products can carry a risk of pulmonary illness. This follows five recent deaths in the U.S. that have been linked to vaping. Health Canada reported that no similar pulmonary illness incidents have been reported in Canada, but the agency is in communication with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) who is investigating 450 cases in 33 states which involve e-cigarettes or other vaping product use.⁷

Complicating matters further in lieu of regulation and restriction are flavoured vapour products. There are over 7000 flavours of e-juice available including candy and fruit flavoured varieties with names that appeal to youth.⁸ There is a strong body of evidence to support that flavours attract youth to e-cigarette use where research concludes that flavour influences youth to try and buy e-cigarettes and the appeal of ads promoting flavours is linked to uptake of vaping by youth.⁹

Presently, there are limited federal restrictions associated with the marketing and promotion of e-cigarettes. Unlike cigarettes, vaping advertising is currently permitted on main stream media including television, radio, newspapers, outdoor signs, print and billboards. There are some regulations to protect youth related to the sale, promotion and flavour of vaping products; however, these regulations are clearly not adequate to stem the increasing uptake of vaping by youth.

Provincially, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA, 2017) originally put comprehensive restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products similar to tobacco. However, those restrictions were not implemented by the Ontario provincial government before the SFOA, 2017 was enacted. As a result, point of sale display and promotion of vapour products at corner convenience stores, gas stations and grocery chains is widespread and promotional materials from posters to three-dimensional cutouts and packaging displays.

In order to prevent a further increase of vaping among youth and non-smokers in Simcoe Muskoka and to prevent the associated possible risk of cigarette smoking uptake, bans on the display and promotion of vapour products at both the Federal and Provincial level are required immediately. Provincially, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulations need to be strengthened to include a ban on flavoured vape products, as well on the display and promotion of vapour products mirroring the ban on tobacco products. Federally, the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act (TVPA) should also be revised to ban display, promotion and advertising, also mirroring the restrictions on tobacco in the TVPA.

⁶ England, L.J., Bunnell, R.E., Pechacek, T.F., Tong, V.T. and McAfee, T.A., 2015. Nicotine and the developing human: a neglected element in the electronic cigarette debate. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 49(2), pp.286-293.

⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

⁸ Zhu SH, Sun JY, Bonnevie E, Cummins SE, Gamst A, Yin L, Lee M. Four hundred and sixty brands of e-cigarettes and counting: implications for product regulation. *Tobacco Control*, 2014 Jul 1;23(suppl 3):e113-9

⁹ Vasiljevic M, Petrescu DC, Marteau TM. Impact of advertisements promoting candy-like flavoured e-cigarettes on appeal of tobacco smoking among children: An experimental study, *Tobacco Control*, 2016;25(e2):e107-e112.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter for the protection of the health of our youth.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Board of Health Chair

Cc: Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Tobacco Research Unit
Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco
Municipal Councils of Simcoe Muskoka
Members of Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Members of Provincial Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Central Local Health Integration Network
North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network

October 11, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

Re: Vapour Products Display and Promotion

The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Board of Health is writing to you to express deep concerns about the on-going promotion of vaping products in Ontario.

While vapour products are generally regarded as safer than combustible tobacco cigarettes, these products are not risk-free and are known to contain and emit potentially toxic substances. KFL&A Board of Health is alarmed by the rising vaping rates among youth. The sharp increase in youth vaping rates is especially concerning given the availability and promotion of nicotine containing vapour products, the impact of nicotine on the developing brain, and the recent upward trending of cigarette smoking among this population. Our concerns are further compounded by the vaping related pulmonary disease reports emerging from the United States, Quebec and our own province.

A suite of robust regulatory measures is needed to address the rise in vapour product use and to protect our most vulnerable populations from the harms associated with these products. Because exposure to vapour products marketing and advertising decreases the perception of the associated risk of vaping and increases the odds of trying these products, immediate action is needed to limit youth's exposure to product promotion. Our youth and young adults are frequently being exposed to vaping advertising on the internet, at point of sale in convenience stores and gas stations, as well as on television, magazines, billboards, social media, and public transit. To that end, KFL&A Board of Health passed the following motion on 2019-09-25:

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health urge the Provincial Government to immediately remove Sections 21 and 22 of Regulation 268 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, so that retailers of vaping products will not be allowed to promote them and so that the promotion and display of vape products are subject to the same prohibition as tobacco products.

.../2

KFL&A Board of Health applauds the Government of Ontario's recently expressed concerns about youth vaping and the health risks and your willingness to find evidence-informed solutions to address this emerging public health issue.

Sincerely,



Denis Doyle, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

*Copy to: Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Mark Gerretsen, MP Kingston and the Island
Scott Reid, MP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Mike Bossio, MP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister, Health Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Dr. Theresa Tam, The Chief Public Health Officer
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health*