

December 2, 2019

VIA EMAIL

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

Dear Minister Elliott:

Subject: Vapour Product Use Among Youth

On behalf of the Board of Health of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, I congratulate you on taking an important first step to address the serious problem of vapour product use (with e-cigarettes) among youth in our communities by restricting the advertising of vaping products to adult access stores.

Since 2017 there has been a dramatic increase in the number of youth who are now using vapour products, including youth who are non-smokers. New high tech vapour products, the addition of flavours that appeal to youth, easy access, its marketing as being safe, as well as high levels of nicotine leading to addiction are all contributing to this increase. Nicotine affects the growth and development of the youth brain, and the other inhaled, unregulated vaping compounds likely have a serious impact on the respiratory system.

Our Board of Health urges you to continue your work to protect the youth by supporting Bill 151, the *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids)*, 2019. The Bill includes the following measures concerning vapour products:

- Banning promotion
- Banning flavours unless exempted by regulation
- Setting a maximum nicotine level in pods and liquids of 20 mg/ml
- Banning sales except in adult-only specialty vape stores
- Requiring specialty vape stores to be approved by the local Board of Health
- Authorizing the Health Minister to direct that tax revenue from e-cigarette sales in specialty vape shops be directed to public education, provided that the Legislature appropriates funds for this purpose
- Requiring Ontario Health to prepare an annual report to the Health Minister on youth vaping with information and recommendations

Sincerely,



Doug Malanka
Board Chair

cc: Ontario Boards of Health
Randy Hillier, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands & Rideau Lakes