

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Proposed Hamilton municipal tax on nicotine vaping eliquid and devices

From: Marion Burt

Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 12:37 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Proposed Hamilton municipal tax on nicotine vaping eliquid and devices

Good day!

I am a member of the group Vapers for a Smoke-Free Canada, formed at the request of a previous federal Minister of Health and Addictions and Health Canada. We are all adults (mostly retired) who stopped smoking by switching to nicotine vaping and feel strongly that governments should not sacrifice the health of Canadian adults by enacting Draconian measures to deal with what is proving to be a youthful fad.

Health Canada recognizes on its web pages that vaping is much less harmful than smoking combustible cigarettes and that vaping is twice as successful in smoking cessation than any of the pharmaceutical products. It recommends that smokers switch to regulated nicotine vaping.

In spite of Health Canada's guidance, the federal and Ontario governments have imposed high taxes on vaping products in the past two years, almost doubling the cost of vaping supplies. This has almost destroyed a major incentive for anyone wanting to stop smoking -- the cost advantage.

Indeed, the cost of vaping now exceeds the cost of buying illicit tobacco cigarettes!

We agree that young people should not be vaping, but there are regulations in place to discourage them and these should either be strengthened or enforced. Any "tool" to deal with youth vaping should not discourage adults who smoke from trying a product that can free them and let them enjoy better health and well-being. The members of VSFC can attest to the beneficial changes that we experienced when we made the switch.

I urge you to reject any plan to impose additional taxes on vaping products. The idea is a harmful one based on little understanding of the reality of vaping in Canada.

Sincerely,

Marion C Burt

Vapers for a Smoke-Free Canada