

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Item 9.3 of the General Issues Committee Minutes

From: John Oyston
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:38 AM
To: <mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca>
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Good morning

I am writing to oppose the Vape Tax in Hamilton.

I am a medical doctor specializing in anesthesiology. As such, I have seen the damage tobacco does to the human body. The risk of vaping is less than 5% of the risk from smoking. For people who smoke, switching to vaping is a huge health benefit. (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities Research and analysis Nicotine vaping in England: 2022 evidence update).

Public policy should encourage people who smoke to switch to vaping, for example, by ensuring that vaping is a cheaper alternative to smoking.

Adding an extra tax on vape products will disincentivize people who smoke from switching to vaping, and this will result in avoidable deaths.

If Hamilton is concerned about youth vaping rates, then funds should be allocated to increase the enforcement of existing laws that make it illegal to provide vape to minors.

If Hamilton is looking for additional taxation revenue, it should consider an extra tax on cigarettes, cannabis or alcohol, all of which are more dangerous to youth than vaping.

Yours

Dr. John Oyston, MB BS, BMedSci, FRCA, FRCP(C)