



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

July 26, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Helen Angus
Deputy Minister of Health and
Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care

Dr. David Williams
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Transforming Public Health for the People of Northeastern Ontario

I write on behalf of the five Medical Officers of Health for Northeastern Ontario. As leaders of the public health units for Algoma, North Bay Parry Sound, Porcupine, Sudbury & Districts, and Timiskaming, we began some years ago to explore how greater collaboration among our organizations might improve our collective efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the unique public health needs of the people of the North East.

The announcements on April 11, 2019, of the government's consideration of a new province-wide model for public health served to accelerate and refocus our efforts. This led us to consider a range of structural, organizational, and governance options in support of a more integrated approach and resulted in the submission that is forwarded to you today for the Ministry's consideration.

We appreciate that there are decisions to come as to how the Ministry intends to receive input from stakeholders on a modernized approach to public health. We are confident that protecting and promoting the health of our population remains at the forefront for the Ministry as much as it does for us, and we are hopeful that our submission points to a feasible path forward for a Northeastern public health entity, should this remain the direction following the Ministry's consultations.

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Letter

Re: Transforming Public Health for the People of Northeastern Ontario

Page 2 of 3

The attached submission was prepared for your consideration, while you continue with determining the way forward for public health modernization. We would point out the key features of our work as follows:

- We have adopted a driving principle of think corporately and deliver locally. Translated, this means that we have considered how to create a single consistent set of systems for administrative purposes supporting, measuring, and managing a delivery structure that continues to identify and meet the public health needs of local communities.
- We have not lost sight of the concerns of our constituent municipalities, especially around cost management. To this end, we have proposed a representational governance structure that both respects that, and begins to embed best practices in good governance, embracing not only local representation, but also the complex set of skills, experience, and competencies that we know public health governance needs to succeed in the rapidly transforming health system in Ontario.

We have accomplished a great deal. We have reached agreement among a group of committed colleagues; obtained the support of our respective Boards to undertake this work; shared our work to date with our current Board Chairs; and have undertaken considerable detailed planning and analysis of both delivery and administrative systems, focussing on potential efficiencies within a new model. And, there is much yet to be done.

With the experience of the North East thus far, we submit that to do any transformation work well while ensuring the important work of public health continues uninterrupted, careful consideration must be given to sufficient transition time, funding and resources to support the required transition work, and flexibility as needed to incorporate potential regional variations.

We are now at the stage where we seek the opportunity to meet with Ministry senior leadership, to consider and refine our work to date. We would like to provide further context, review the recommendations, and clarify any points as needed. Public health is too important to get wrong and we remain dedicated to working with you to ensure a strong, effective, nimble, and locally connected public health system for the province of Ontario.

Letter

Re: Transforming Public Health for the People of Northeastern Ontario

Page 3 of 3

Thank you and we would sincerely appreciate an opportunity to engage. We would be pleased to organize this through my office at 705.522.9200 ext. 291.

Sincerely,



Dr. Penny Sutcliffe
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Encl.

cc: Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Walker, Director, Accountability and Liaison Branch, Ministry of Health
Ms. Colleen Kiel, Acting Director, Strategy and Planning Branch, Ministry of Health
Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Porcupine Health Unit
Dr. Marlene Spruyt, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Algoma Public Health
Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Timiskaming Health Unit



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

October 18, 2019

VIA COURIER

Mr. Jim Pine
Special Advisor, Public Health Modernization
c/o Minister of Health
10th Floor, 80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Mr. Pine:

On behalf of the five Boards of Health in North East Ontario, please accept our congratulations on your appointment as Special Advisor, assisting the Ministry of Health in modernizing both public health and emergency health services.

We are pleased to see in you someone who has deep experience in municipal affairs and with that, appreciation for the critical work of local public health in meeting and responding to the rapidly evolving public health needs of Ontario families and communities.

We are proud to share that since 2017, the Boards of Health in North East Ontario (Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Porcupine Health Unit, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, and Timiskaming Health Unit), have proactively and strategically engaged in the North East Public Health Collaboration Project to identify opportunities for collaboration and potential shared services.

The work of the Collaboration accelerated and reoriented in April following the changes to the public health system that were announced in the spring provincial budget. The renamed, **North East Public Health Transformation Initiative** has a vision of a *healthy northeastern Ontario enabled by a coordinated, efficient, effective, and collaborative public health entity*. We attach here the report on key aspects of this work, Transforming Public Health for the People of Northeastern Ontario. This report was submitted in July to Deputy Minister Angus and Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Williams.

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At our most recent meeting of North East Board Chairs on October 11, 2019, it was strongly supported that we extend to you an invitation to meet with the leadership of the North East Boards of Health. We would like to share with you the work of the North East Public Health Transformation Initiative and engage further in developing a local public health system that best meets the public health needs for the people of the North East. We respectfully ask that you consider holding public health consultation sessions that are separate and distinct from the emergency health services sessions.

The Boards of Health for the North East look forward to providing our best advice on designing a public health system that is nimble, resilient, efficient and responsive to emerging issues. Public health is too important to get wrong and we remain dedicated to working on system renewal with you.

Thank you for considering our invitation. We would be pleased to organize this through the Public Health Sudbury & Districts Board Secretary, Rachel Quesnel at quesnelr@phsd.ca or 705.522.9200 ext. 291.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Board Chair, Public Health Sudbury & Districts

cc: Lee Mason, Board Chair, Algoma Public Health
Nancy Jacko, Board Chair, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Sue Perras, Board Chair, Porcupine Health Unit
Carman Kidd, Board Chair, Timiskaming Health Unit
Dr. Marlene Spruyt, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Algoma Public Health
Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Porcupine Health Unit
Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Timiskaming Health Unit

Encl.

October 18, 2019

Mayor Bryan Paterson and City Council
City of Kingston
City Hall
216 Ontario Street
Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Dear Mayor Paterson and Council:

RE: Municipal Alcohol Policies and Municipal Policy Options to Mitigate Alcohol Harms

Recently announced provincial regulatory changes will impact the sale, service and consumption of alcohol in local communities. These changes include:

- Municipalities now have the authority to designate public areas, such as parks, for the consumption of alcohol through a local by-law.
- Special Occasion Permit events will have extended hours for the sale of alcohol, will no longer have to serve food at these events, and will not have to physically separate areas where alcohol is sold and consumed from the rest of the event.
- Tailgate Events, where patrons bring their own booze, will be allowed at professional, semi-professional, or post-secondary sporting events.

It is anticipated that these changes will increase alcohol consumption and its concomitant harms, along with demand, and hence cost, for municipal services such as police, EMS, fire services and public health. In fact, in 2014, the cost of alcohol to the healthcare system, criminal justice system, workplaces and other direct costs was \$1.4 billion, \$1.3 billion, \$2.1 billion and \$495 million, respectively. With increased consumption, these costs will only increase.

Ontario municipalities can use Municipal Alcohol Policies (MAPs), along with other municipal policies, to balance the responsible provision and use of alcohol against the need to reduce alcohol-related risk and harm for events hosted on municipal property, and to protect local governments from liability and from increasing costs to manage alcohol-related harms. In the context of the Government of Ontario's alcohol policy reforms, municipalities must consider the following:

- By loosening public consumption controls, the risk increases significantly for underage drinking, harmful alcohol consumption, intoxication, and alcohol-related harms, and could lead to serious injury and death, and consequently municipal liability. Further still, public consumption of alcohol will further normalize its use and its consumption or over consumption in public spaces may hinder the public's enjoyment of community spaces.

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health

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- While there are AGCO guidelines for Tailgate Events, there are insufficient parameters related to the management or monitoring of the Bring Your Own Booze provision, enforcement or staff training. Many municipalities are impacted by unsanctioned street parties involving the over consumption of alcohol by students and other individuals. Unrestricted access to alcohol in this type of environment contributes to harmful drinking behaviour and has the potential to place an undue burden on surrounding neighbourhoods, police and paramedic services. Queen's University Homecoming and St. Patrick's Day give rise to massive gatherings or street parties that are accompanied by a spike in Emergency Department visits in Kingston each year.
- Evidence indicates that expanding hours of alcohol service is related to increased alcohol consumption and related harms. This policy also contributes to the normalization of alcohol use among vulnerable populations including children and youth.

As such, at the October 16, 2019 meeting of the KFL&A Board of Health, the following motion was passed:

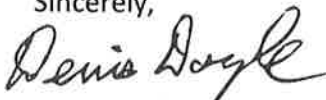
THAT the KFL&A Board of Health strongly advise municipalities to continue to prohibit alcohol consumption in public spaces such as parks as per current *Liquor License Act, 2019*,

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health strongly urges all KFL&A municipalities to strengthen or to develop municipal alcohol policies that balance the responsible provision and use of alcohol against the need to reduce alcohol-related risk and harm, and to include, at a minimum, the following provisions in their Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP):

- **Specify times permitted for alcohol service and maintain permissible start time of 11 AM at provincially issued SOP events on municipal properties,**
- **Require that food be made available at all provincially issued SOP events on municipal properties; i.e. do not permit alcohol-only,**
- **Specify that designated alcohol service and consumption areas be physically separated from non-designated areas at provincially issued SOP events on municipal properties, and**
- **Prohibit provincially issued SOP Tailgate Events on municipal properties.**

I strongly encourage all of our municipalities to reach out to Daphne Mayer, Manager of the Substance Use, Mental Health and Injury Prevention Team, to develop or strengthen your Municipal Alcohol Policy to preserve the health and safety of our residents.

Sincerely,



Denis Doyle, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

cc to: Monica Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Pegeen Walsh, Ontario Public Health Association
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health

October 21, 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 October 17, 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health passed the following Resolution regarding **The Harms of Vaping and the Next Steps for Regulation**. WECHU's resolution as outlined below calls for amendments to the SFOA restricting the promotion and marketing of vaping products, the sale of flavoured vaping products and asks for all regulations and protections for tobacco such as the Automatic Prohibition (AP) process be applied to vaping retailers:

Whereas, the WECHU Board of Health has passed three previous resolutions related to vaping to encourage further regulation at the federal, provincial, and local levels of government;

Whereas, the WECHU has submitted feedback independently and through regional collaborations for the increase in regulations related to vaping products;

Whereas, there is evidence that vaping products have short-term negative health effects and contain harmful chemicals like nicotine;

Whereas, the restrictions on the promotion and display of tobacco products and the removal of tobacco flavouring from the retail marketplace has contributed to the reduction of tobacco smoking among young people;

Whereas, Individuals who do not smoke should not start vaping, especially youth, young adults, pregnant women, and those planning on becoming pregnant;

Whereas, vaping rates among young people have increased 74% between 2017 and 2018;

Whereas, Vaping products have the potential to re-normalize smoking and lead to tobacco use among youth;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports the ban on the promotion of vaping products in the retail setting and online, and

Further that, the provincial government further restricts the sale of flavoured vaping products to include only tobacco flavours targeting current smokers who are looking to quit, and

Further that, all regulations related to protecting youth and young people from the harms of tobacco smoke be applied to vaping products.

We would be pleased to discuss this resolution with you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

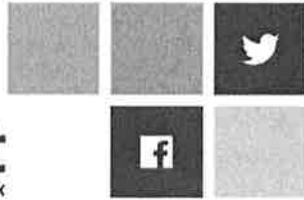


Gary McNamara
Chair, Board of Health



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, Irek Kusmeirczyk, Chris Lewis



October 22, 2019

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

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

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor and Minister Elliott:

Restrictions on Display and Promotion of Vaping Products and the Ban of Flavoured E-Cigarettes

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter we received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit where their Board of Health approved a motion at their September 18, 2019 Board of Health meeting 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 the potential risk of smoking commencement by youth.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA) 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. Point of sale display and promotion of vaping products at convenience stores, gas stations and grocery store chains is widespread through promotional materials (posters, three-dimensional cut-outs and packaging displays).

In addition, the SFOA regulations need to be strengthened to include a ban on flavoured vaping products and the display and promotion of vaping products, mirroring the ban on tobacco products.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



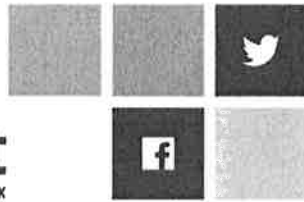
Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Irek, Kusmeirczyk, Chris Lewis

Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
AMO – Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls



October 22, 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:

Removal of Regulation 268 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, to restrict marketing of Vaping Products

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter we received from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health where their Board of Health passed the following motion at their September 25, 2019 Board of Health meeting:

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health urge the Provincial Government to immediately remove 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.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister, Health Canada
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls

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AMO – Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Irek, Kusmeirczyk, Chris Lewis



October 24, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

The Regional
Municipality of
Durham

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services

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Honourable Sir:

**RE: Notice of Motion re: Opioid Overdose Emergency
Resolution Our File: P00**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on October 23, 2019, adopted the following recommendations of the Health and Social Services Committee:

"Whereas the opioid overdose emergency is affecting communities across Ontario, including Durham Region; and

Whereas the prevalence of addiction and the incidence of emergency department visits and deaths associated with opioid use disorder have increased in recent years; and

Whereas addiction to prescription and illegal opioids is negatively affecting individuals, families and entire communities; and

Whereas on September 12, 2019, the Government of Ontario announced its plan to establish the Mental Health and Addictions Division (MHAD) under the leadership of Karen Glass, Assistant Deputy Ministry; and

Whereas the MHAD will lead the development and implementation of Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario will be consulting key stakeholders and the public on modernizing public health and land ambulance services; and

Whereas public health programs and services demonstrate superior value for money and return on investment; and

Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has identified a need for federal and provincial strategies that are comprehensive, coordinated and address the root causes of the opioid crisis; and

Whereas FCM has recommended an intergovernmental action plan that aligns federal, provincial/territorial and local strategies, responds to specific needs of indigenous communities and rapidly expand all aspects of the collective response; and

Whereas FCM has echoed the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on the Opioid Crisis; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) has identified the following recommendations for a provincial response to addressing the opioid overdose emergency in Ontario:

- i. That the Province publicly affirms the seriousness of the opioid overdose emergency and commit to take all necessary measures to save lives and prevent harm, including the provision of long-term funding for existing programs as well as new funding streams, where necessary;
- ii. That the Province undertakes an 'all of government' effort to develop a comprehensive provincial drug strategy that addresses the opioid overdose emergency, based on a public health approach that addresses the social determinants of health, and that takes a non-discriminatory approach to overdose prevention and harm reduction. This strategy should cascade down to guide local drug strategy development and implementation with accompanying resources so that municipalities in Ontario have comprehensive, multi-faceted, funded drug strategies in place led by dedicated local coordinators. Further, progress toward implementation should be measured with performance indicators and be evaluated for outcomes achieved;
- iii. That the Province examines, and its ministries provide, a coordinated 'all of government' response with adequate funding to address the root causes of addiction, including housing related factors, poverty, unemployment, mental illness, and trauma;
- iv. That the Ministry of Health provides more funding to support, enhance and expand evidence- based consumption, treatment and rehabilitation services, addiction prevention and education, and harm reduction measures in all areas of Ontario;
- v. That the Ministry of Health targets funding for addiction and mental health services that would assist in treating people with mental illness to reduce and/or eliminate self-medication and would provide services to help people overcome their addiction;
- vi. That the Ministry of the Solicitor General provides enhanced funding to enforce laws surrounding illicit drug supply, production, and distribution;

- vii. That the Province enhances funding for diversion programs, mobile crisis intervention teams, and further promote harm reduction approaches among police services;
- viii. That the Ministry of Health examines community paramedicine as a viable option to provide treatment and referral services;
- ix. That the Ministry of Health funds a public education campaign, including on social media, to complement the efforts of individual communities;
- x. That the provincial coordinator work with the Ministry of Education to add a health promoting youth-resiliency program to the school curriculum that includes coping skills to get through obstacles in life, e.g. social competence, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, and informed decision-making;
- xi. That the Ministry of Health fully funds (100%) Naloxone for all municipal first responders (paramedics, police, and fire services) and provide training in its use;
- xii. That the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services work together with municipal human service system managers to better link social service and health supports including to help people overcome addiction and address mental health;
- xiii. That the Ministry of Health works toward a goal of establishing and maintaining 30,000 supportive housing units in the province; and
- xiv. That the Province advocates to the federal government for appropriate and supportive measures that will support effective provincial and local responses;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Government of Canada and Ontario recognize, acknowledge and declare a national health epidemic in respect to the opioid overdose emergency across Canada;
- B) That AMO's recommendations with respect to Ontario's opioid overdose emergency be endorsed;
- C) That the Government of Ontario be urged to continue funding the important work of public health units to help address the current opioid crisis;

- D) That the Government of Canada and Ontario be advised that the opioid emergency is not limited to major urban centres and that federal and provincial representatives work directly with the Region of Durham, to develop and fund a full-suite of prevention and addiction services, affordable social and supportive housing to address the crisis in our communities; and
- E) That the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Health and Children, Families and Social Development, and Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Durham's MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health, Ministers of Children, Community and Social Services, Finance, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, Durham's MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, AMO, aPHa, FCM, all local municipalities, and all Ontario boards of health be so advised as well as be provided with a copy of the presentation from M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, regarding The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue."

As directed, attached is a copy of the presentation from M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, regarding The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue.



Ralph Walton,
Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

RW/np

Attach.

- c: The Honourable Ginette C. Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mark Holland, MP (Ajax)
Mr. Erin O'Toole, MP (Durham)
Jamie Schmale MP (Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
Philip Lawrence, MP (Northumberland/Peterborough South)
Dr. Colin Carrie MP (Oshawa)

Jennifer O'Connell, MP (Pickering/Uxbridge)
Ryan Turnbull, MP (Whitby)
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health
The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and
Social Services
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and
Housing
Rod Phillips, MPP (Ajax/Pickering)
Lorne Coe, MPP (Whitby/Oshawa)
Lindsey Park, MPP (Durham)
Jennifer French, MPP (Oshawa)
Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP (Pickering/Uxbridge)
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
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Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities
of Ontario (AMO)
L. Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health
Agencies (alPHa)
C. Saab, Executive Director, Policy and Public Affairs, Federation of
Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
A. Harras, Acting Clerk, Town of Ajax
B. Jamieson, Clerk, Township of Brock
A. Greentree, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
M. Medeiros, Acting Clerk, City of Oshawa
S. Cassel, City Clerk, City of Pickering
J.P. Newman, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of
Scugog
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
C. Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby
Ontario boards of health
Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health

October 25, 2019

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

Dear Minister Elliott:

On behalf of the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit I wish to commend your decision to prohibit the promotion of vapour products in convenience stores and gas stations effective January 1, 2020. This regulatory amendment to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* will have immediate and long-lasting benefits, protecting the health of the youth in our province.

Your leadership is in keeping with the letter from the Board of Health to you and the federal Minister of Health on September 18, 2019, calling for stringent restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products and to ban flavoured e-cigarettes. This is to help prevent the further uptake of vaping (and with it, the potential risk of smoking commencement) by youth. The Board noted that vaping has been increasing rapidly in our youth which has been borne out in the evidence: A 74% increase in vaping among youth aged 16-19 in Canada was reported from 2017 to 2018.

In recognizing this significant amendment to display and promotion regulation, I renew the Board of Health's request to ban flavoured e-cigarettes. With thousands of flavours of e-liquid available, including candy and fruit-flavoured varieties, the evidence clearly supports that flavoured e-liquid is a significant factor in youth uptake and use .

The Ministry of Health's leadership in enacting the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* one year ago has been critical to the protection of Ontario's citizens from the harms of tobacco, vaping and cannabis. The Board of Health recognizes this action as being an important step, and recommends the further development of a renewed comprehensive tobacco control strategy towards the tobacco endgame goal of achieving a smoking rate of less than 5% by 2035.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important public health matter.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Board of Health Chair

Barrie: 15 Spurling 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: A-925 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
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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



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

October 30, 2019

VIA: Email

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dr. David Williams
Chief Medical Office of Health
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
21st Flr, 393 University Avenue, 21st Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2M2
dr.david.williams@ontario.ca

RE: Support for a Seamless Provincial Immunization Registry

Dear Minister Elliott and Dr. David Williams,

At its meeting on October 18, 2019, the City of Hamilton Board of Health received a report and presentation on the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA). As a result, the Board of Health was happy to support the position of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health in support of a seamless immunization registry and asked that the report (BOH19029) be circulated to those copied on this letter.

Local public health units are responsible for the enforcement of the ISPA, a provincial law that requires children attending school to be vaccinated according to the Ontario immunization schedule. The Hamilton Public Health Vaccine Program engages in a screening and suspension process that ensures parents and guardians are adequately notified of ISPA requirements. The program is responsible for assessing and maintaining vaccine records for over 70,000 students enrolled in Hamilton elementary and secondary schools. For the 2018-2019 school year, at the completion of the screening and suspension process, the compliance rate ranged between 94.3% to 98.5% for 7 to 8 year-old school students and 93.1% to 99.8% for 17 to 18 year-old students.

Although ISPA is an effective tool to ensure individual and community level immunity, the process is resource intensive both from a staff and time perspective. This is a result of most vaccine records requiring manual input into the provincial database by program staff, and follow-up required on records received that are missing information such as date of administration, required demographics or fax error.

.../2


A major challenge to the administration of ISPA is the lack of a provincial immunization registry to seamlessly transfer immunization information from primary and community health care providers, at the time a vaccine is given, to the Digital Health Immunization Repository. As a result, parents/guardians are responsible for reporting their child(ren)'s vaccine records to Public Health. Furthermore, public health units across Ontario do not have a process to verify information received from parents/guardians with their health care provider, as this would be both labour intensive and costly.

Support for a seamless immunization registry would address several of the challenges with the current system, including:

- Eliminating the burden on parents/guardians to report vaccines to Public Health;
- Reducing the risk of inaccurate information being reported by parents;
- Reducing staff time and resources needed to manually input vaccine records; and,
- Reducing the number of suspensions due to the lack of reporting by parents.

Immunizations remain one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions as they protect individuals from the harmful effects of vaccine-preventable diseases in addition to providing community level protection. Hamilton Public Health Services is committed to protecting the health of the community by preventing vaccine-preventable diseases. To achieve this goal, Hamilton Public Health Services will continue to collaborate and support parents and local school boards to ensure compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act. Moving toward a seamless immunization registry would increase efficiencies in the screening and suspension process while reducing parental burden to report vaccines to public health.

Sincerely,



Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

CC:

Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough – Glanbrook
Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West – Ancaster, Dundas
Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa)
Ontario Boards of Health



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

October 30, 2019

VIA: Email

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

**RE: Opposition to Co-Payment for Dentures under the New Ontario Seniors
Dental Care Program**

Dear Minister Elliott,

At its meeting on October 18, 2019, the City of Hamilton Board of Health received a report and presentation on the Ontario Senior's Dental Program. As a result, the Board of Health was very happy to have this new program, but concerned about a possible co-payment for dentures.

Many seniors in Hamilton cannot afford dental care and either pay out of pocket or forgo regular dental care. As a result, many seniors increasingly seek dental care in hospital emergency departments. Seniors living in low-income areas are two times more likely to visit hospitals than those living in high income areas.

Oral health is linked to overall health and is an important health matter for many seniors in the community. As people age, their oral health may become worse due to medications, medical conditions as well as mobility limitations that make good oral hygiene difficult to maintain. In addition, seniors may face barriers to accessing dental care due to cost, limited physical and cognitive abilities and transportation.

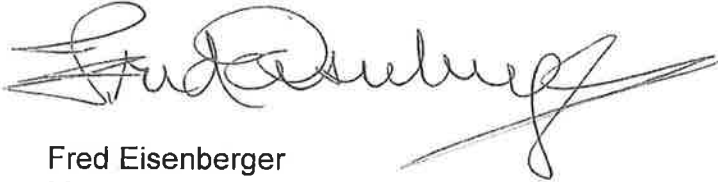
In Hamilton there are approximately 10,230 seniors who could be eligible for the new Ontario Seniors Dental Care program (OSDCP). Local population health data indicates that 47% of all seniors wear dentures, and without regular dental care it could be surmised that the proportion of low-income seniors would be greater than the overall 47%. Dentures are important functional appliances to replace missing teeth. Dentures allow people to speak and chew properly therefore supporting good nutrition, communication, social interaction and self esteem.

.../2

The purpose of the new OSDCP program is to increase access and reduce barriers to care so low-income seniors could be provided with proper dental care and maintain good oral health, without the cost of dental care being a factor.

Given that the cost of dental care has been identified as one of the main barriers to care, imposing a 10% co-payment would compound this barrier and dentures would remain inaccessible for many low-income seniors. This would adversely affect seniors' overall quality of life and is contrary to the original purpose of the program. Due to the factors listed above, we are opposed to the possibility of a 10% co-payment for the OSDCP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Eisenberger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

CC:

Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough – Glanbrook
Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West – Ancaster, Dundas
Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Ontario Boards of Health



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

October 30, 2019

VIA: Email

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

RE: Request for Weekly Data Reports on Vaping Cases

Dear Minister Elliott,

At its meeting on October 18, 2019 the City of Hamilton Board of Health discussed the potential health effects associated with the use of electronic cigarettes, in particular, the current outbreak of severe pulmonary disease, and your recent order for hospitals to report such cases to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

In order to enable Hamilton's Board of Health to better assess the extent of the ill-effects of vaping on the health of those in Hamilton, I am writing on behalf of the Hamilton Board to request that any such reports to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health by Hamilton hospitals be shared with Hamilton's Medical Officer of Health.

Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

CC:

Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough – Glanbrook
Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain

.../2

Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West – Ancaster, Dundas
Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Ontario Boards of Health



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

October 31, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Elliott,

On October 29, 2019, Renfrew County and District Board of Health passed the following resolution in support of Windsor-Essex County Board of Health's October 17, 2019 motion regarding *The Harms of Vaping and the Next Steps for Regulation*:

Resolution: # 4 2019-Oct-29

A motion by P. Emon; seconded by W. Matthews; be it resolved that the Board support Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's October 17 motion re: The Harms of Vaping and the Next Steps for Regulation and furthermore we implore the provincial government to move quickly to gather and share clinical information with Ontario Public Health Units and the public about the effects of vaping products on the teen and general public as soon as possible.

We thank you for considering this resolution.

Sincerely,

Janice Visneskie Moore
Chair, Board of Health

- c. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and 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
Honourable John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Honourable Chery Gallant, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Local Municipalities
AMO/ROMA



October 31, 2019

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

Re: Funding for Leave the Pack Behind

On August 23, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Peterborough Public Health regarding the provincial governments' decision to cease funding for Leave the Pack Behind. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-67

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Sue Paterson

"THAT, the Board of Health support the correspondence from Peterborough Public Health with respect to Funding for Leave the Pack Behind."

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Twolan".

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Bill Walker, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Health Units

Working together for a healthier future for all.

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



July 17, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4
Sent via e-mail: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Elliot,

Re: Funding Cancelled for Leave the Pack Behind

At its meeting on June 12, 2019, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health had the opportunity to review communication from Leave the Pack Behind, a longstanding provincial partner in tobacco prevention and cessation among young adults. On behalf of the Board of Health, I am writing to express our concern over the provincial governments' decision to cease funding for Leave the Pack Behind.

Young adults aged 20 - 24 have the highest prevalence of e-cigarette use and other tobacco products like cigars and water pipes, and one of the highest rates of cigarette use in the province.¹ Additionally, the transition to daily, regular smoking in Ontario is likely established between the ages of 18 and 21 making cessation and prevention programs for young adults more imperative than ever.²

In Peterborough, both Fleming College and Trent University have smoke-free campus policies that protect students, staff, and visitors from the involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke and vapour. However, the success of these policies depends on a comprehensive approach to commercial tobacco control that includes cessation support for those that want to make a quit attempt.

Working with Leave the Pack Behind staff at both post-secondary institutions has allowed us to engage hundreds of young adults and inspire dozens of quit attempts that otherwise would not have happened without partnerships and collaboration.

It has been widely reported that the Provincial government has pledged to end 'hallway medicine' and is committed to balancing the budget. Reinstating the funding of this vital program will help the government meet both of those goals as for every dollar spent on tobacco control, \$20 are saved in future health care costs.^{3,4} Furthermore "there is now a substantial body of evidence showing that the majority of health care expenditures are spent on conditions that are largely preventable."⁵

Leave the Pack Behind was part of a 'no wrong door approach' that supported young adults with their quit attempts. As "tobacco dependence treatment can have a significant impact on health and be very cost-effective when compared with other health system activities"⁶ we are urging the Ministry to reconsider the cancelation of this comprehensive and impactful program.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Councillor Kathryn Wilson
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Local MPPs
Kelli-an Lawrance, PhD, Director & Principal Investigator of Leave the Pack Behind, Brock University
Heather Travis, Manager, Leave the Pack Behind, Brock University
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ [https://uwaterloo.ca/tobacco-use-canada/sites/ca.tobacco-use-canada/files/uploads/files/tobacco use in canada 2019.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/tobacco-use-canada/sites/ca.tobacco-use-canada/files/uploads/files/tobacco_use_in_canada_2019.pdf)

² <https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/14/3/181>

³ <https://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/71/8/827.full.pdf>

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVZxtuZhN_M

⁵ <https://www.cpha.ca/making-economic-case-investing-public-health-and-sdh>

⁶ <https://www.ccohealth.ca/sites/CCOHealth/files/assets/CCOChronicDiseaseReport.pdf>

October 31, 2019



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: National School Food Program

On August 23, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Peterborough Public Health regarding moving forward with implementing a cost-shared national school food program. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-68

Moved by: Anne Eadie Seconded by: Sue Paterson
"THAT, the Board of Health support the correspondence from Peterborough Public Health with respect to Support for a National School Food Program."

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mitch Twolan".

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Alex Ruff, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe-Grey
Benn Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Health Units

Working together for a healthier future for all.

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July 19, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Maxime Bernier, MP, Beauce
Leader, People's Party of Canada
maxime.bernier@parl.gc.ca

Yves-François Blanchet
Leader, Bloc Québécois
3750, boul. Crémazie Est
bureau 402
Montréal, QC H2A 1B6

Elizabeth May, MP, Saanich - Gulf Islands
Leader, Green Party of Canada
elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Andrew Scheer, MP, Regina - Qu'Appelle
Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca

Jagmeet Singh, MP, Burnaby South
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
jagmeet.singh@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Federal Party Leaders:

Re: Support for a National School Food Program

The Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health requests that you honour and move forward with implementing a cost-shared, national school food program, as outlined in the Federal healthy eating policy with a commitment of resources.

Universal access to healthy food every day at school could improve students' food choices and support their academic success (including academic performance, reduced tardiness and improved student behaviour). An important step towards health equity, universal healthy school meals contribute to students' physical and mental health. Its' success requires all levels of government to be engaged and supportive. Canada is the only G7 country that does not provide federal funding or resources to support school food and nutrition programs.

Our Board of Health supports initiating consultations to develop an adequately funded national cost-shared school food program. As public health experts with extensive experience working with Ontario student nutrition programs, we urge that a universal program include appropriate nutrition education and food safety training of staff and volunteers, provide an optional and culturally appropriate daily nutrition meal, use best practices in service and delivery, function in inspected and adequately equipped spaces, and provide students with the opportunity to implement Canada's Food Guide key messages; specifically, students are given the opportunity to eat more vegetables and fruit, whole grains and protein foods in a socially inclusive environment where they enjoy, prepare and eat healthy food with others.

A well designed national school food program has the potential to enable children to develop food and nutrition habits they need to lead healthy lives and succeed at school.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Councillor Kathryn Wilson
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Local MPs
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health



October 31, 2019

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

Re: Display and Promotion of Vaping Products

On September 27, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding implementing restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-79

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Brian Milne

"THAT, the Board of Health support the correspondence from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding Restrictions on the Display and Promotion of Vaping Products."

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Twolan".

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Dr. David Willians, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alex Ruff, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe-Grey
Benn Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Health Units

Working together for a healthier future for all..

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



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 breath.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

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FAX: 705-526-1513

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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):iii3-9

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 31, 2019

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

Re: Promotion and Display of Vapour Products in Ontario

On September 27, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from alPHa regarding implementing restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-80

Moved by: Anne Eadie
Seconded by: Brian Milne
"THAT, the Board of Health support the correspondence from alPHa regarding Vapour Products Display and Promotion."

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitch Twolan".

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Dr. David Willians, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alex Ruff, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe-Grey
Benn Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Health Units

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Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

ALPHA's members are
the public health units
in Ontario.

ALPHA Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
Organizations:**

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of
Public Health Nursing
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in
Public Health

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E-mail: info@alphaweb.org

September 19, 2019

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
10th Flr, 80 Grosvenor St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Elliott,

Re: Vapour Products Display and Promotion

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) and its member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations, I am writing to reiterate our concerns about the ongoing proliferation of the promotion and display of vapour products in Ontario, especially as we deal with the emerging issue of vape-related severe respiratory illness.

While research has shown that vaping is less harmful than smoking tobacco, this same research shows that vaping still introduces poisonous substances into the body. In addition to this, the use of vape technology as a vehicle for nicotine and cannabis has become much more common and therefore aligns these products more closely to tobacco, for which we rightly have strict prohibitions on promotion and display.

Ontario has seen a sharp increase in youth vaping over the past two years and this will likely continue without strict prohibitions on their promotion and marketing. Emerging reports of ER admissions for incidences of vaping-related severe pulmonary disease are an immediate cause for alarm, and it is not unreasonable to anticipate more of these as the popularity of vaping increases.

Section 4.1 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 clearly prohibits the display and promotion of vapour products in any place where vapour products are sold or offered for sale, except in accordance with the regulations (RSO 2018, c. 12, Sched. 4, s. 3).

Regulation 268 sets out exemptions from this section, which include permission for retailers of vapour products to promote them (O. Reg. 439/18, s. 4). We strongly urge the immediate removal of this exemption and a return to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act's original intent of placing the same prohibitions on the promotion and display of vape products as it does on tobacco.

The appeal and popularity of these products among children and youth is well established, and our existing concerns are now sharply magnified by reports of hospital admissions related to the use of vape products. We are pleased that you have publicly expressed your own concerns about the prevalence and possible health consequences of vaping, particularly as they affect our youth, and we hope you agree that placing stronger restrictions on vape promotion is in fact one of the most obvious solutions to this emerging issue.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our positions in more detail. Please contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa at 647-325-9594 or loretta@alphaweb.org to make arrangements for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen McGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carmen McGregor
alPHa President

COPY: Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dianne Alexander, Director, Health Promotion and Prevention Policy and Programs Branch
Nina Arron, Director, Health Protection and Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch



November 7, 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: Amendment to SFOA, 2017 to restrict promotion of vaping products

The Huron County Board of Health is writing you to commend your decision to prohibit the promotion of vapour products in convenience stores and gas stations effective January 1, 2020. This regulatory amendment to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 will have immediate and long-lasting benefits, protecting the health of the youth in our province.

The Huron County Board of Health is alarmed by the rising vaping rates among youth and young adults. In order to comprehensively address the issue, a suite of robust regulatory measures is needed to protect our most vulnerable populations from the harms associated with these products. In addition to this significant amendment to the display and promotion regulation, I recommend further investigation and regulations that would ban flavoured e-cigarettes.

The appeal and popularity of these products among children and youth is well established, and our existing concerns are now sharply magnified by reports of hospital admissions related to the use of vape products. We are pleased that you have publicly expressed your own concerns about the prevalence and possible health consequences of vaping, particularly as they affect our youth, and we hope you agree that placing restrictions on flavoured e-cigarettes will further contribute to protecting our residents, particularly youth.

Sincerely,

David Jewitt, Board of Health Chair
Huron County Health Unit

Encl: HCHU Letter to Christine Elliot, MOHLTC
c: The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Ontario Boards of Health
Huron Bruce MPP, Lisa Thompson

Huron County Health Unit

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November 20, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Mr. Jim Pine
Special Adviser, Public Health Modernization
c/o Minister of Health
10th Flr, 80 Grosvenor St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Elliott and Mr. Pine:

Re: Public Health Modernization

During the Association of Local Public Health Agencies meetings held November 6 & 7, 2019 in Toronto, representatives from the Ministry of Health indicated that aspects of the original direction provided to health units on April 11, 2019 regarding the creation of 10 regional public health entities have now been paused. Given this, I am writing on behalf of the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to recommend that the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) remain as an independent health unit operating within its current boundaries and under its current governance structure.

It should be noted that this position for the Board is a change from its previously stated position calling on the province to maintain SMDHU intact as it merges with public health services in York Region. The rationale for the prior position was based on a very strong desire to avoid services in Simcoe and Muskoka being divided, and on the assumption at the time (immediately following the release of the April budget and verbal communication from Ministry of Health staff) that a merger would not be avoidable. However, with the present opportunity to consider our future with a fresh look, this current position is based on what it would deem to be actually best for the provision of public health services in Simcoe Muskoka.

On April 1, 2005 SMDHU was formed through the dissolution of the former Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit and the Muskoka District operations merged with the former Simcoe County District Health Unit operations and the Parry Sound District operations merged with the former North Bay & District Health Unit. The Board and staff have worked very hard since the inception of SMDHU (a merger prompted by the province) to create a cohesive public health agency that is highly successful in fulfilling its mandate. Extensive work and extraordinary merger costs were invested in the newly formed health unit.

A strong and stable governance structure currently exists through the Board of Health being represented by 14 members including four elected representatives from the County of Simcoe, two elected representatives from the District of Muskoka, two elected representatives from the

□ 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: A-925 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
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City of Barrie, one elected representative from the City of Orillia, and currently five appointees made up of citizens appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, through the Provincial Appointments Secretariat. Strong by-laws and policies that clearly articulate the governing, financial, operational, oversight and statutory responsibilities of the Board of Health exists.

SMDHU believes the financial stability currently exists and it is fiscally responsible to keep the health unit in the municipalities that are funding it with the levy received via County of Simcoe, District of Muskoka, City of Barrie and City of Orillia. If SMDHU is required to merge with a smaller health unit that will have implications for the current SMDHU subsidizing the smaller health unit; and merging with a larger health unit will require that health unit to subsidize the current SMDHU. Any cost efficiencies that SMDHU is currently putting in place will need to be spent in order to bring together a new entity.

Currently, the geographic boundary of SMDHU covers 8,800 square kilometers of land area. According to the 2016 Census, 540,249 people, or 61 people per square kilometer, were living in the service area of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. This included 479,650 living in Simcoe County and 60,599 living in the District of Muskoka. The current geographic area for Simcoe Muskoka is large enough to remain as a distinct entity. This population size is consistent with evidence demonstrating the ideal population size to realize public health outcomes serves a population of about 500,000.

A large, stable and skilled workforce exists within SMDHU. There are currently 370 employees which allows for several disciplines to be working within the health unit and specific expertise to be drawn upon. Recruitment and retention of employees has not been a barrier to having a stable workforce. Employees have access to ongoing skill development.

Extensive work with key partners in the local community including municipalities, school boards, and community agencies regarding the delivery of our public health mandate reflects a key strategic priority.

A strong organizational culture exists and it has taken years to develop a new culture within the current organization that will be impacted if a new entity is created. SMDHU is recognized as a learning organization, supports evidence-informed decision making and ensures accountability and continuous quality improvement initiatives ongoing. There is a history of successful accreditation through the former Ontario Council of Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) reflecting a strong policy foundation within the health unit.

Overall, across the province in Ontario, there may be smaller health units that may benefit from forming new entities to achieve the public health functions described in the Ontario Public Health Standards and impact positively on population health status. They may be experiencing challenges with recruitment, capacity, financial stability, and governance that can be alleviated by becoming a new public health entity. SMDHU is achieving its mandate very well in its current state.

We look forward to participating in the upcoming consultations. We commend this approach and welcome the opportunity to participate in this engagement. As the province proceeds with its

modernization of health care and public health, the Board of Health and staff for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit are ready to be a partner, providing our insights and expertise to bring forward all that is essential within public health.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Chair, Board of Health

AD:CS:cm

cc: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Public Health Association
Boards of Health for York Region, Sudbury, North Bay, Parry Sound, Algoma,
Porcupine, Timiskaming, and Renfrew
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



HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT
HEALTH UNIT

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November 21, 2019

Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health, Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Sent via email: patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier
Minister of Health, Ontario
Hepburn Block 10th Floor 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto,
ON M7A 1E9
Sent via email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Hajdu/Minister Elliott:

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit would like to commend the Ontario Government on the decision to prohibit the promotion of vapour products in convenience stores and gas stations as of January 1, 2020. However, we believe that further steps are necessary to protect our youth and prevent the continued rise in vapour product use in youth and other vulnerable populations.

Vaping has been rapidly increasing in our youth, with a 74% increase in vaping among Canadian youth aged 16-19 reported from 2017 to 2018¹. While vaping products have been regarded as safer than combustible tobacco cigarettes, recent reports of severe pulmonary illness associated with vaping in the United States and Canada have given rise to concerns about the use of vaping products, especially among youth. Most vaping products contain nicotine at varying levels. This is concerning as children and youth may become dependent on nicotine more rapidly than adults leading to addiction and physical dependence². Research has demonstrated that youth are especially susceptible to the negative effects of nicotine, as it can alter their brain development and can affect memory and concentration.^{2,3} There are thousands of flavours of e-liquids available, including candy and fruit flavoured varieties that are greatly appealing to youth, and 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 youth⁴.

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 Health Canada. (2019-02-04). Vaping: Get the Facts. Retrieved November 2019 from: [tobacco/vaping/risks.html?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc_en&utm_content=risks_2&utm_campaign=vapingprevention2019&utm_term=%2Bvape](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2019001/article/00001-eng.htm)

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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PROTECTION · PROMOTION · PREVENTION

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108 Angeline Street South
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 3L5

Minister Hajdu
Minister Elliott
November 21, 2019
Page 2

At its meeting held on November 21, 2019, the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit approved a motion to write to you to request more stringent vaping regulations, similar to those regulating tobacco products, to address the rise in vapour product use in youth and other vulnerable populations.

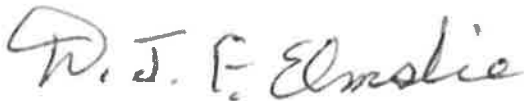
These recommended regulations include:

- Require a ban on flavoured e-cigarettes to help prevent the further uptake of vaping by youth.
- Restrict the nicotine concentration in all vaping products.
- Require health and toxicity warnings on all vapour products.
- Require mandatory testing and reporting for vapour products.
- Require standardized and tamper proof packaging on all vapour products.
- Require an age of 21 years for tobacco, vaping and cannabis sales.
- Develop a robust and sustainable monitoring and surveillance strategy to ensure compliance.
- Revise the Federal *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* (TVPA) to ban display, promotion and advertising, mirroring the restrictions on tobacco in the TVPA.

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

Sincerely

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



Doug Elmslie, Chair, Board of Health

DE/lm

Cc (via email): The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
Jamie Schmale, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Philip Lawrence, MP, Northumberland-Peterborough South
The Hon. Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health
Ontario Boards of Health
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies