

Board Correspondence

June 2024

Date	From	Subject
April 22, 2024	Public Health Sudbury & Districts	Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches.
May 10, 2024	Municipality of Temagami	Proposed Structure for the Merged Board of Health.
May 13, 2024	Municipality of Temagami	Letter of support for resolution #24-082, Township of Archipelago, in regards to the phasing out of free water testing for private wells.
May 28, 2024	Public Health Sudbury & Districts	Support for Bill C-322, National Framework for a School Food Program Act.



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

April 22, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Holland:

Re: Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches

In July 2023, Health Canada gave approval to Imperial Tobacco Canada to sell Zonnica under the [Natural Health Product Regulations](#) as a Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) product. Consequently, Zonnica is sold under the Health Canada approval without adhering to the restrictions of the Federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#) and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#).

Since this time, nicotine pouches have become widely available to youth. These flavoured pouches can be legally purchased by those under 18 years of age in Ontario. The unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to accessibility, normalization, and potential health hazards. Nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children¹ and youth². Exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of children and youth and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products².

In March 2024, Public Health Sudbury & Districts released an advisory alert to local health system partners sharing concerns related to nicotine pouches. Additionally, letters were sent to education directors, educators, and parents to increase awareness of the availability and risks of nicotine pouches to children and youth.

At its meeting on April 18, 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts took further action and carried the following resolution #26-24:

WHEREAS Health Canada approved nicotine pouches for sale under

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca

the Natural Health Product regulations providing no restrictions on advertising or sale to children and youth; and

WHEREAS the unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to their accessibility, the normalization of nicotine use, and potential health hazards; and

WHEREAS nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children and youth; and

WHEREAS exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS the emergence of nicotine pouch products occurred rapidly without requiring adherence to the restrictions of the federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#), and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage Health Canada to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap that permits the sale of nicotine pouches to youth under 18 years of age; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health urge Health Canada to strengthen regulations to restrict the sale of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring that nicotine availability to children and youth never occur again; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage the Government of Ontario to exclusively sell nicotine pouches from behind pharmacy counters, limit their display in retail settings, and restrict their promotion, especially to youth; and

FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario expand the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

We applaud your pledge to take action to review the approval process for flavoured nicotine sales and advertising. We acknowledge the advisory Health Canada issued in March stating nicotine pouches should be used for nicotine replacement therapy in adults and the emphasis on keeping them out of reach of children and youth.

However, only until tighter restrictions of nicotine pouches are implemented, the widely available and accessible product will continue to expose children and youth to nicotine. The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourages the federal government to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap by restricting the sale of nicotine pouches to those under 18 years of age. We also support Health Canada in their assertion to halt the legal purchasing loophole and ensure that nicotine availability to children and youth never occurs with new and emerging products.

We thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health of Canadians.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health



M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Canada's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Yasir Naqvi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Honorable Mark Holland
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). "The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK294308/#ch5.s2>

² National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. (2016). "E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General."

The Honourable Mark Holland
April 22, 2024
Page 4

Retrieved on January 30, 2024 from
www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/ecigarettes/pdfs/2016_sgr_entire_report_508.pdf.

**The Corporation of the
Municipality of Temagami**

7 Lakeshore Drive
P. O. Box 220
Temagami, Ontario
POH 2H0

E-MAIL: communicate@temagami.ca
WEBSITE: www.temagami.ca

PHONE: (705) 569-3421
FAX: (705) 569-2834



May 10, 2024

Timiskaming Health Unit
Attn: Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health & CEO
247 Whitewood Ave., Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Dear Dr. Glenn Corneil:

RE: Proposed Structure for the Merged Board of Health

Please be advised that the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami, at their meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024, discussed the proposed structure for the new Board of Health following the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) and Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) merger. Council expressed a need for additional representation from the southern area of the proposed board, and a concern that one representative was not enough to represent 19 municipalities. Council passed the following resolution to recommend a change to the structure.

24-176

MOVED BY: M. Youngs

SECONDED BY: C. Lowery

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of Temagami receives memo 2024-M-079;
AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality of Temagami send a letter to the Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health to recommend that one additional municipal representative be included on the Board of the proposed merged Health Unit by redefining Rural North and Rural South.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this recommendation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Gunnell".

Elaine Gunnell, Dipl.M.A., AOMC
Municipal Clerk

cc. Rachelle Côté: coter@timiskaminghu.com
Lori McCord: Lori.McCord@porcupinehu.on.ca
Stacy Wight: c/o clerk@tkl.ca

**The Corporation of the
Municipality of Temagami**

7 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 220
Temagami, Ontario
P0H 2H0

E-MAIL: communicate@temagami.ca
WEBSITE: www.temagami.ca

PHONE: (705) 569-3421
FAX: (705) 569-2834



May 13, 2024

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks,
VIA EMAIL: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
VIA EMAIL: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Ministers Khanjin and Jones:

RE: Support for Resolution Re: Phasing Out Free Water Testing for Private Wells

Please be advised that the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami, at their regular meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024, received the attached Resolution from The Township of The Archipelago regarding Public Health Ontario Proposes Phasing Out Free Water Testing for Private Wells. After considering said resolution, the Council passed Municipality of Temagami Resolution 24-208 to express their support of The Township of The Archipelago Council's request.

Please see the enclosed resolution that has been endorsed by the Council of the Municipality of Temagami. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Gunnell".

Elaine Gunnell, Dipl.M.A., AOMC
Municipal Clerk

Enc.

cc.: Township of The Archipelago: atorresan@thearchipelago.ca
Timiskaming Health Unit: coter@timiskaminghu.com
Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca



The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 15.8.

Resolution Number 24-082

Title: Public Health Ontario proposes phasing out free water testing for private wells

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Manners

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

WHEREAS the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

WHEREAS free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including the entire Township of The Archipelago, that rely predominantly on private drinking water; and

WHEREAS the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario underscored the critical importance of safe drinking water.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Township of The Archipelago hereby requests that the Province reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Carried



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

May 28, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Viviane Lapointe
Member of Parliament, Sudbury

Marc Serré
Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt

Carol Hughes
Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing

Dear Members of Parliament:

Re: Support for Bill C-322 National Framework for a School Food Program Act

At its meeting on May 16, 2024, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #36-24:

WHEREAS the current Ontario student nutrition program only reaches 40% of students and 71% of publicly funded Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools due to insufficient funding, rising food costs, inadequate infrastructure and human resources, and an increase in student need for proper nourishment; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts passed motion [02-20](#) supporting a universal fully funded healthy school food program, and motion [61-23](#) supporting a funded national school food program in the 2024 Federal Budget; and

WHEREAS although the Government of Canada recently [announced an investment of \\$1 billion over 5 years for the national school food program](#) in the 2024 Budget to help enhance and broaden existing programs throughout Canada, more support is required to ensure a universal fully funded school food program for all students; and

Sudbury

1300 rue Fairview Street
Sudbury ON P4E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
t: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

100 rue Elm Street
Box 7000-110
Sudbury ON P4E 5M4
t: 705.522.9200
t: 705.522.5182

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box 7000-50
St. Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.272.9200
t: 705.867.0614

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Box 7000-1000
Espanola ON P56 1P3
t: 705.522.9200
t: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

611 Highway 7/Route 762
Box 7000-87
Mindenota ON P0P 2S0
t: 705.270.0200
t: 705.372.5580

Chapleau

20 rue Birch Street
Box 7000-685
Chapleau ON P0M 1E0
t: 705.860.9200
t: 705.864.0810

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter
Re: Bill C-322 Policy Support
May 28, 2024
Page 2

WHEREAS Private Member's [Bill C-322](#) calls for a national framework to establish a school food program that is universal, sustainable and effective, where no child is left out or stigmatized in the program due to their families' ability to pay, fundraise, and volunteer with the program; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & District commend the Government of Canada for prioritizing healthy school food in Budget 2024 and for working in partnership with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities throughout Canada; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health urges local Members of Parliament and other key partners to endorse Bill C-322, National Framework for a School Food Program Act and continue to uphold the commitment to the health and well-being of children and youth in Canada.

Evidence has shown that not all schools are able to implement a healthy school food program due to its inconsistent patchwork of funding via public and private contributions, and charitable donations^{i,ii,iii}. At the same time, these programs often rely on volunteers to administer the program as the funds are prioritized for covering rising costs of food and maintaining program infrastructure to deliver school meals or snacks^{i,ii,iv}.

The Board of Health is pleased to witness growing support for prioritizing a national school food policy for Canada. Many individuals from across the country also voiced the importance for programs to "embrace universality" so that a healthy school food program can positively impact student's nourishment, health and wellbeing, and academic achievement, without students, families and schools feeling stigmatized if participating in the program^v. The proposed National Framework for School Food Program Act would help ensure the development of a universal program in which students have equal opportunity to benefit from healthy meals at school everyday.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health



M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Finance
Honourable Jenna Sudds, Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development
Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Honourable Patty Hadju, Ministry of Indigenous Services
Bruce Bourget, Director of Education, Rainbow District School Board
Danny Viotto, Director of Education, Huron Superior Catholic District School Board
Joanne Bénard, Director of Education, Sudbury Catholic District School Board
Lesleigh Dye, Director of Education, District School Board Ontario North East
Lucia Reece, Director of Education, Algoma District School Board
Paul Henry, Directeur de l'éducation, Conseil scolaire catholique Nouvelon
Sébastien Fontaine, Directeur de l'éducation, Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario
Sylvie Petroski, Directrice de l'éducation, Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières
Debbie Field, Coalition for Healthy School Food
Carol Dodge, Executive Director, Better Beginnings Better Futures
Ontario Boards of Health

ⁱ Ruetz, A. T., & McKenna, M. L. (2021). *Characteristics of Canadian school food programs funded by provinces and territories*. *Canadian Food Studies*, 8(3), 70-106. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v8i3.483>

ⁱⁱ Haines, J., & Ruetz, A. (2020, March 01). *School Food and Nutrition. Comprehensive, Integrated Food and Nutrition Programs in Canadian Schools: A Healthy and Sustainable Approach*. Arrell Food Institute. https://arrellfoodinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SchoolFoodNutrition_Final_RS.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Bond, N. (2015, February 01). *Evaluating Universal Student Nutrition Programs: Methods, Indicators, and Outcomes*. Regions. Community Engaged Scholarship Institute. <https://atrium.lib.uoquelf.ca/bitstreams/840f461a-78ab-4733-81a3-0c1c0d2ceb12/download>

^{iv} Ruetz, A.T., Edwards, G., Zhang, F. (2023). *The Economic Rationale for Investing in School Meal Programs for Canada: multi-sectoral impacts from comparable high-income countries*. The Arrell Family Foundation. https://amberleyruetz.ca/assets/uploads/ruetz-consulting_the-economic-rationale-for-investing-in-school-mealprograms-for-canada.pdf

^v Economic and Social Development Canada. (2023). *National School Food Policy Engagements – What We Heard Report*. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/school-food/consultation-school-food/what-we-heard-report-2023.html>