

TITLE: Provincial Legislation to Prohibit the Use of Waterpipes in Enclosed Public Places and Enclosed Workplaces

SPONSOR: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

WHEREAS the emerging use of waterpipes in enclosed public places and enclosed workplaces has the potential to undermine the success of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act; and

WHEREAS tobacco-free (“herbal”) waterpipe smoke has been demonstrated to have concentrations of toxins comparable to tobacco waterpipe smoke¹; and

WHEREAS the environmental smoke from waterpipe use in indoor public places and workplaces has been demonstrated to contain toxins at harmful concentrations²; and

WHEREAS the alleged “herbal” preparations are poorly regulated and often contain tobacco even when they are labelled tobacco free³; and

WHEREAS the Tobacco Strategy Advisory Group report recommends an amendment of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, with “the addition of controls on the indoor use of waterpipes such as hookahs”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) advocate for provincial legislation to be enacted to prohibit the use of waterpipes (regardless of the substance being smoked) in all enclosed public places and enclosed workplaces.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Resolution CARRIED

References

1 Shidadeh A; Salman R; Jaroud E; Saliba N; Sepetdijian E; Blank M; Does switching to a tobacco-free waterpipe reduce toxicant intake? A crossover study comparing CO, NO, PAH, volatile aldehydes, tar and nicotine yields. Food and Chemical Toxicology Journal Vol. 50, Issue 5, 2012.

2 The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, OTRU Update, Waterpipe Smoking: A Growing Health Concern, January 31, 2011.

3 The Non-Smokers’ Rights Association, Hooked on Hookah: Issue Analysis and Policy Options for Waterpipe Smoking in Ontario, March 2011.