

alPHa RESOLUTION A14-2

TITLE: **Regulating the Manufacture, Sale, Promotion, Display, and Use of E-Cigarettes**

SPONSOR: **Board of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit**

- WHEREAS an e-cigarette is a device designed to mimic the appearance and feel of a regular cigarette, pipe or cigar, but with one critical difference – they do not contain tobacco; and
- WHEREAS there has been a huge increase in the growth and popularity of e-cigarettes in recent years; and
- WHEREAS in one study on the prevalence of use among youth and young adults, results indicate that ⅓ of Canadian smokers and 6% of non-smokers had ever tried e-cigarettes. Of those, 14% of smokers and 1% of non-smokers indicate being current e-cigarette users; and
- WHEREAS e-cigarettes are available from a wide variety of locations including convenience stores, gas stations, pharmacies, specialty e-cigarette stores, and the internet; and
- WHEREAS e-cigarettes do not contain tobacco, they are not covered under the Tobacco Act or the Smoke-Free Ontario Act; and
- WHEREAS e-cigarettes that contain nicotine and/or with health claims require pre-market authorization by Health Canada before they can be sold in Canada; and
- WHEREAS there are no long-term studies on the health effects of using e-cigarettes, they pose a substantially lower health risk compared to cigarettes, and there has been little evidence of harm from e-cigarettes; and
- WHEREAS the long term risk of inhaling propylene glycol (one of the main ingredients) is still unknown and lack of manufacturing standards means there is significant variation in nicotine and other chemical content, which poses a health risk to the user; and
- WHEREAS e-cigarettes have tremendous potential to help smokers reduce their cigarette consumption and to quit smoking altogether; and
- WHEREAS current available smoking cessation aids have limited effectiveness and e-cigarettes have the potential to help smokers reduce their health risks; and
- WHEREAS using an e-cigarette in indoor environments, may involuntarily expose nonusers to nicotine from second hand vapour but not to toxic tobacco-specific combustion products; and
- WHEREAS e-cigarettes, both with and without nicotine, have the potential: to undermine current smoke-free regulations; complicate enforcement; re-normalize smoking thus making the habit more attractive, especially among youth and young adults; and lead to an increase in dual use (e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes); and
- WHEREAS more research is needed to determine the health risks of exposure to second-hand vapour;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and its stakeholders to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare of all Ontario residents by: ensuring manufacturing consistency of e-cigarettes; conducting research on the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes and exposure to second hand vapour; and regulating the promotion, sale and use of e-cigarettes in Ontario.

AND FURTHER that the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Public Health Association, Prime Minister of Canada, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, federal Minister of Health, and Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Resolution CARRIED