March 3, 2020

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

Re: The Harms of Vaping and the Next Steps for Regulation

On November 22, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached Resolution from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding the next steps for vaping regulation. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-100

Moved by: Selwyn Hicks Seconded by: Anne Eadie
“THAT, the Board of Health endorse the resolution from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding The Harms of Vaping and the Next Steps for Regulation as presented.”

Carried

Sincerely,

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry 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
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 Kusmierczyk, Chris Lewis
March 3, 2020

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

Re: Comprehensive Measures to Address the Rise of Vaping in Canada

On November 22, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Kingston Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health regarding measures to address the rise in Vaping. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-99

Moved by: Selwyn Hicks Seconded by: Anne Eadie
“THAT, the Board of Health endorse the correspondence from Kingston Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health regarding Comprehensive Measures to Address the Rise of Vaping in Canada as presented.”

Carried

Sincerely,

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
October 16, 2019

Via E-mail: Ginette.PetitpasTaylor@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor:

Re: Comprehensive measures to address the rise of vaping in Canada

The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Board of Health is writing to you to express deep concerns about the rising vaping rates among youth and young adults in Canada. The sharp increase in youth vaping rates is especially concerning given the availability and promotion of vapour products containing nicotine, the impact of nicotine on the developing brain, and the recent upward trending of cigarette smoking among this population. Our concerns are further compounded by the vaping-related pulmonary disease reports emerging in the United States and Canada.

While vapour products are generally regarded as safer than combustible tobacco cigarettes, these products are not risk-free and are known to contain and emit potentially toxic substances. The emerging concerns surrounding vaping calls for a regulatory framework that provides equal protection for all Canadians.

A suite of robust measures is needed to address the rise in vapour product use and to protect our most vulnerable populations from the harms associated with these products. We applaud the Government of Canada’s pursuit of an evidence-informed regulatory framework through the numerous public consultations conducted in 2019. KFL&A Public Health submitted the following regulatory recommendations through the consultation process:

- Prohibit all additives and non-tobacco flavours in vaping products and e-liquids.
- Require the listing of all ingredients on product labels and packaging.
- Require health and toxicity warnings on vapour products.
- Restrict nicotine concentration in all vaping products.
- Require standardized and tamper proof packaging on all vapour products.
- Require mandatory testing and reporting for vapour products.
- Strengthen the advertising and promotion control regime so that it aligns with tobacco controls.
- Develop a robust and sustainable monitoring and surveillance strategy to ensure compliance with advertising and promotion controls and to identify emerging products.
The appeal and popularity of vapour products is concerning given their potential health risks, and the rise of youth vaping cannot continue unabated. Like tobacco control, there is no silver bullet to address vaping and its risks. The KFL&A Board of Health urges the Government of Canada to expedite a comprehensive set of controls for vapour products like those regulating tobacco products and to consider other evidence-informed strategies such as taxation, use prohibition, industry denormalization, and effective public education and behaviour change campaigns to address this emerging public health issue.

Sincerely,

Denis Doyle, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

Copy to: Mark Gerretsen, MP Kingston and the Islands
Scott Reid, MP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Mike Bossio, MP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health