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