

My name is John Kaczmarek and I am a past tobacco cigarette smoker of over 30 years. Over that 30 year time frame I tried all methods available to quit smoking only to suffer extreme side effects that included mood swings, hostility, aggression, paranoia, hallucinations, panic and confusion coupled with an inability to sleep and nightmares. All of these methods were or still are available to consumers and more than not, over the counter at local department and drug stores where anyone can purchase them as young as 14 years of age.

On March 24, 2014, my wife and I purchased our first e-cigarettes and e-liquid. I do not ever want to look back to days prior to that. Because of the e-cigarettes and liquid we have both successfully been able to remove tobacco cigarettes from our lives and better yet, from the lives of our children. My health has improved because of this usage where I sleep better, breath better and feel healthier as a result. I have reduced my nicotine from when I used to smoke 1 ½ packs a day of strong cigarettes down to a 6mg intake of nicotine without the chemicals which are not a tobacco product. To impose a government bill such as our "Health Minister" wants will take this away from us. This is simply not acceptable as I can guarantee that we will both end up back as users of tobacco cigarettes.

I know what the products are that make up the juices that are made in Canada. They include the following:

1. Propylene Glycol (a colorless organic liquid) found in asthma inhalers, toothpaste, beer, salad dressing, baking mixtures, etc.
2. Vegetable Glycerin (listed as glycerin on food labels) found in drinks that contain chocolate, milk, yogurt, cocoa and eggnog, sports drinks, beer, wine, marshmallows, mustard, vinegar, cereal, pasta, batters
3. Flavoring - naturals extracts used in cooking sold at most retail grocers and in every food that has a flavor
4. Nicotine as would be found in tomatoes, eggplant, potatoes, cauliflower, green peppers, and tea

I also know that none of the ingredients are considered tobacco. Given that information and also the fact that every single one of these ingredients is in foods we eat and beverages we consume, how can this be classified under the tobacco act? Do you consider the food on your table, the products you use and the beverages you drink a cigarette or tobacco product? I certainly don't!

E-cigarettes are no more like 'regular' cigarettes than Nicorette or other products. E-cigarettes have enabled tobacco smokers to switch to a less harmful modality which are not tobacco at all.

The benefits overwhelmingly demand closer scrutiny. Why anti-smoking advocates are spear heading the march against such technology is beyond reason. Not one single case of harm nor death from electronic cigarettes is recorded while millions will die from smoking a legal product – which funds much of this biased and questionable stand against smokers and vapers who use electronic cigarettes. That is no longer acceptable.

If you care about your position in parliament that you were voted into by the people, you need to support the people and put a stop to Bill 60 being passed. Cigarettes, tobacco and smoking are not at all related to vaping or e-cigarettes. You must look at regulating certain aspects of e-cigarettes however, they are not tobacco in any way and cannot be classified as such under the Tobacco Act. We need your assistance in being our voice you were elected to be. We the people are the primary stakeholders here. We are not the tobacco industry nor do we represent them. We have been trying to break away from cigarettes and we have succeeded with innovative technology that works. There is no smoking or tobacco involved. It has been proven and declared by leading scientist and doctors and even Tobacco activists to be multitudes safer than smoking tobacco cigarettes.

Where is the problem? It seems to be within the idea of a "quit or die" mentality now adopted by the WHO. This is NOT acceptable any longer.

We have been unfairly treated by the same anti-smoking advocates who proclaimed to be fighting the tobacco industry while reaping the monetary gain from smokers via increased taxing of the only consumer product taxed at extreme levels beyond any other consumer product. 83% is crazy! We claim "Foul Play" and "Unfair" discrimination as well as infringement of our Human Rights under Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom. You cannot expect to disregard the very people who pay you and to stand still while you now attempt to remove and restrict their own solution to harm reduction. Putting it all very simply, we the people are being bullied by the very government that we put into place and it needs to stop right now! I am going to leave one final reminder for you, e-cigarettes are NOT tobacco in any way, shape or form so do not treat them as such.

My name is John Kaczmarek from Belmont, Nova Scotia and I am opposed to Bill 60.