

**Bill 60,
Heart and Stroke Foundation**

Presentation to the Law Amendments meeting

November 3, 2014



- Hello, my name is Catherine Droesbeck, Community Health Promotion Lead at Heart and Stroke Foundation, NS. The Foundation appreciates the opportunity to be present at these hearings.
- First, some information about the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our mission is to prevent disease, save lives and promote recovery. We are a volunteer-based health charity, drawing upon the support of 140,000 volunteers across the country. We strive to tangibly improve the health of every Canadian family, every day.
- Tobacco use is a key risk factor for heart disease and stroke – increasing the incidence of all major forms of heart disease and stroke. In fact, of the premature deaths caused by smoking-related disease in Canada, heart disease/stroke accounted for almost 1/3 of these deaths, or almost 11,000 deaths. These are grim statistics, but they are preventable. As such, for the Foundation, it is crucial that as a society, we do our utmost to reduce tobacco use.
- Over the years, the Foundation has worked with its partners to advance a variety of tobacco control measures across the country at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation supports a number of measures proposed in this Bill, including restrictions:
 1. On the use of e-cigarettes. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada recently released a comprehensive statement on this issue and we support measures at the federal, provincial and municipal level, including those proposed in this bill.
 2. Further restrictions on flavoured tobacco. The Foundation is very keen to see the banning of all flavoured tobacco products, including chewing tobacco and snus. As well, we believe it is critical to ban all flavours, including menthol which we know was used by 34% of youth smokers in the past 30 days.
 3. We also support the banning of all smoking in public places where tobacco is banned, this includes waterpipes, e-cigarettes, or hookah smoking/vaping.

4. We are asking for the proclamation to happen immediately. The NS government's intention to proclaim Bill 60 months after 3rd reading (just like Alberta) is a concern as the tobacco industry has been successfully lobbying to weaken the legislation in the interim since the Alberta Bill was passed.
5. Therefore we would ask to have the proclamation date set as the date of the 3rd reading to avoid the Alberta situation. We do support a 6 month transition period for the government to provide clear information to affected retailers and allow retailers to understand the new Bill and make the necessary changes within their businesses.

Thank you.