

November 3, 2014

Office of the Legislative Council
CIBC Building
Suite 802
1809 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 1116
Halifax NS B3J 2X1

Dear Mr. Hebb,

I am a Health Promoter in South West Nova District Health Authority and have been working on the reduction of the health impacts of tobacco use for over 24 years. This work includes supporting changes to how products that impact the health of users and those around them are bought, sold and used in public spaces. I fully support the proposed amendments in Bill 60 to regulate e-cigarettes, flavoured tobacco products and waterpipes. The amendments will help to reduce tobacco use in children and youth. They will also contribute to protecting the health of Nova Scotians.

I support these amendments because: 1) breathing these products into the lungs is a health risk. There is a growing body of research shows breathing in the vapor from e-products (referring to e-cigarettes, e-cigars and other vapor products) reduces lung function and the components in electronic products vapor are not innocuous to health. 2) Not regulating these products has the potential to undermine current effective tobacco control policies that de-normalize smoking behavior and have contributed to reducing tobacco use in Nova Scotia. (3) There are no non-biased peer reviewed randomly controlled trial studies in relation to e-cigarettes and smoking cessation and there is no support to claims made by industry that e-cigarettes help smokers quit. Their claims are purely anecdotal. (4) Flavoured products are aimed at the youth market. The amendments must include a ban on flavourings (including menthol) in tobacco, e-juice and shisha.

I believe it is important for government to immediately proclaim Bill 60 and to provide adequate resources to support the implementation of the regulations to the amendments.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Raymond Gaudet
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