

McDonald, David S

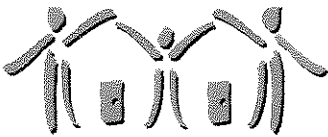
From: McNutt, Gladie <Gladie.McNutt@cehha.nshealth.ca>
Sent: November-03-14 12:06 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: CEHHA letter re Bill 60
Attachments: CEHHA letter re Bill 60.pdf

Hello: Please find attached, a letter from the Colchester East Hants Health Authority. This letter is for the Law Amendments Committee in support of Bill 60.

Thank you,

Gladie McNutt
Executive Assistant
Colchester East Hants Health Authority
Colchester East Hants Health Centre
600 Abenaki Road
Truro, NS B2N 5A1
Phone: 902-893-5554 x 42102
Fax: 902-893-0040
gladie.mcnutt@cehha.nshealth.ca

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Colchester East Hants
HEALTH AUTHORITY

November 1, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Hebb;

Colchester East Hants Health Authority (CEHHA) is one of the 9 health authorities in Nova Scotia. It is was the first health authority in our province to make all DHA (CEHHA) property owned or leased smoke free including cars on the property. This was a very strong policy in 2003 and we were proud to be on the leading edge of this type of policy for all health authorities in Nova Scotia. Since then many 'firsts' have happened in Nova Scotia including smoke free cars for children under 19 and Bill 60 Smoke-Free Places Act (amended) and Tobacco Access Act (amended) is no exception.

We know that tobacco companies have a motivation to keep smokers smoking, not to get smokers to quit. We see that a significant portion of smokers are engaging in dual use, using both regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which has an important effect on health risks. CEHHA fully supports the banning of e-cigarettes sales to minors, and strong provincial restrictions on advertising and promotion of e-cigarettes. We are pleased that Nova Scotia is proposing to ban the use of e-cigarettes in work places and public places where smoking is currently banned, including outdoor areas such as patios and school grounds. Bill 60 is needed to prevent young people from using e-cigarettes and to help prevent e-cigarettes from undermining tobacco control efforts to reduce smoking. There is not sufficient scientific evidence on e-cigarettes and we know the vapour contains nicotine and other substances. However, the long-term effects of exposure to second-hand vapour are not yet known so strong legislation is required.

CEHHA is pleased to see that Bill 60 is addressing the issue of banning flavoured tobacco and it is our hope that included in this ban will be the flavour of menthol which includes not only menthol cigarettes but other menthol products such as papers, chewing tobacco, snus, etc. According to a recent study by the University of Waterloo, many of our youth are smoking menthol cigarettes which is a gateway to smoking 'regular cigarettes'.

Hookah/waterpipe are also being used by our youth and although many may think this is a cultural issue, research shows that it is not; therefore it is paramount that hookah/waterpipe needs to be treated with the same restrictions as 'regular' tobacco as stated in Bill 60.

In closing, Colchester East Hants Health Authority fully supports Bill 60 with the hope that menthol will be considered a 'flavour' and will be included with the banning of all flavoured tobacco products. We support that e-cigarettes will be subject to some of the same regulatory controls as tobacco products in Nova Scotia. It is also critical to ban the smoking of all hookah/waterpipes in indoor places where smoking is currently banned. This legislation clearly protects all Nova Scotians from these products and in particular our youth.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

Yours truly,

Peter MacKinnon, CEO

Healthy People ■ Healthy Communities ■ Quality Health Services

Colchester East Hants Health Centre
600 Abenaki Road, Truro, NS B2N 5A1
Phone (902) 893-5554
WWW.CEHHA.NSHEALTH.CA