



April 21, 2015

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

RE: Bill 90 Law Amendments

To whom it may concern,

Public Health in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth (tri-counties) serves a population of 57,792; youth aged 0 to 14 years (8,164) make up 14.1% of the population, 65.8% (38,025) are aged 15 to 64 years and 20.1% (11,595) are aged 65 years and over. Although tobacco use has changed in our province, we continue to experience high rates of tobacco use in the tri-counties: 30.1% of those 12 years and older reported that they were smokers compared to 23% for Nova Scotia.

The mission of Public Health is to work with others to understand the health of our communities and to act together to improve health! We believe **Bill 90** is one important component to a comprehensive tobacco strategy to reduce tobacco use and to improve population health.

The amendment to the Tobacco Access Act bans the sale of flavoured tobacco products including menthol. The only exemptions to flavoured products are cigars (5+ grams, cost \$4 or more and are flavoured rum, wine, whisky or port) and e-cigarettes. Government removing flavoured tobacco products from the market will help prevent young people from starting and developing an addiction to tobacco.

Tobacco use continues to be the single most important preventable cause of disease, disability and death.

Public Health supports government passing Bill 90 and implementation of the amendments to the Tobacco Access Act on May 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marsha Pothier-Foote".

Marsha Pothier-Foote
Acting Public Health Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Racheal Surette".

Racheal Surette
Healthy Communities Content Lead

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