



**Western Kings Community Health Board**  
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April 21, 2015

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

Dear Law Amendments Committee:

The Western Kings Community Health Board shares the vision of the Nova Scotia Health Authority: "Healthy people, healthy communities - for generations".

We support Bill 90. We applaud the banning of flavoured tobacco products including Menthol. As seatbelt laws and bike helmet laws have reduced injuries from trauma, we see this legislation as improving the health of Nova Scotians going forward, by preventing smoking initiation among Nova Scotia Youth. We encourage the government of Nova Scotia to pass Bill 90 and to implement this legislation as stated, effective May 31, 2015.

Community Health Boards in Nova Scotia are committed to working with community to improve the health of the community. We believe that by eliminating the availability of the flavoured tobacco products that the tobacco companies market to youth, including menthol, the youth in our communities will benefit now and in the future by not becoming smokers. Research shows that almost half (48%) of high school students in NS who have used tobacco products in the previous 30 days had used flavoured tobacco products, with more than 34% having used menthol cigarettes. This research also shows that youth that smoke menthol are more likely to continue smoking than non-menthol smokers.

The Government of NS Consultation on Flavoured Products show that 69% of the engaged public are concerned about the availability of flavoured tobacco in Nova Scotia, and 62% support the ban of menthol flavoured tobacco. We commend our legislators on their courage to act on this consultation.

The WKCHB reminds you of the vision for Nova Scotia: "Healthy people, healthy communities – for generations". By passing Bill 90, and with implementation on May 31, 2015, you will reduce the early use of tobacco, and pave the way for this vision to become reality. We are pleased that you are acting now to make changes that will create healthier Nova Scotians and contribute to a more sustainable health care system for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johanna Kwakernaak".

Johanna Kwakernaak, Chair  
Western Kings Community Health Board

JCGK/lg

Cc: Kelly Cull, Canadian Cancer Society, NS; CKCHB; KGCHB; EKCHB; ACHB