

April 22nd, 2015

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

RE: Support for Bill No. 90 - Tobacco Access Act

Dear Law Amendments Committee:

I am writing in support of Bill 90 to ban flavoured tobacco and applaud the inclusion of menthol in this ban. Research has shown that menthol leads to both greater use by youth and young adults (both in terms of initiation and progression to regular smoking), and greater dependence on nicotine.

As a manager for Mental Health & Addiction Services, I am witness to the fact that people living with mental illness and substance use disorders are more likely to smoke and be at greater risk for smoking-related health problems than the general population. We continue to have exceedingly high rates of tobacco use among our clients.

Healthy public policy is cornerstone to a comprehensive strategy to reduce the harms associated with tobacco use. I fully support Bill No. 90 and implementation date to coincide with the commencement of the amended Smoke Free Places and Tobacco Access Acts on May 31st, 2015. (World No Tobacco Day)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sam Hodder

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