

April 4, 2018

m

Law Amendments Committee

c/o Legislative Counsel Office

PO Box 1116

Halifax, NS B3J 2X1 via email legc.office@novascotia.ca

Dear Committee members:

RE Bill 108

As a grandmother of a six-year-old boy, and as a former health promoter who worked in tobacco control, I am pleased to see the Government's plan, through Bill 108, to strengthen the public's protection from unwanted exposure to second-hand tobacco and cannabis smoke. I am also pleased that the government recognizes the important role that smoke-free legislation plays in the denormalization of tobacco use in our society.

We've known for a long time of the deadly impact of second hand tobacco smoke. Recent studies show that second hand cannabis smoke could damage your heart and blood vessels as much as second-hand cigarette smoke.ⁱ With the legalization of cannabis expanding to multiple jurisdictions, the health effects of exposure to second-and-third-hand marijuana smoke will be increasingly studied. Smoke is smoke. Some studies have already shown that cannabis smoke to contain chemicals that cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm.ⁱⁱ It is not likely that future studies will paint a more rosy picture.

As I review Bill 108 two immediate questions are in the forefront of my mind:

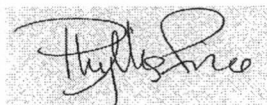
- 1) Does the bill sufficiently protect the public from the impact of second hand smoke of all kinds?
- 2) Are children and youth adequately protected by the proposed legislation?

To be able to give a resounding yes to the above questions, I would encourage you to prohibit smoking and vaping in ALL "outdoor public spaces" in Nova Scotia where people gather, or at minimum, spaces frequented by children. I would therefore encourage you to follow the lead of six other Canadian provinces who have already banned use of cannabis in public places and the other three provinces have who prohibited cannabis use in areas frequented by children.

The legislation as it stands is likely to lead to confusion and inconsistency. The simple amendment as indicated above would correct this problem.

The vast majority of Nova Scotians does not use tobacco or cannabis.ⁱⁱⁱ The experience in Nova Scotia shows overwhelming support for protection from second hand tobacco smoke. Strengthened legislation, with adequate public education and signage, is likely to see similar support for protection from exposure to second hand smoke from both tobacco and cannabis.

Thank you for your consideration.



Phyllis Price

██████████, Broad Cove, NS ██████████

ⁱ Xiaoyin Wang, Ronak Derakhshandeh, Jiangtao Liu, Shilpa Narayan, Pooneh Nabavizadeh, Stephenie Le, Olivia M. Danforth, Kranthi Pinnamaneni, Hilda J. Rodriguez, Emmy Luu, Richard E. Sievers, Suzaynn F. Schick, Stanton A. Glantz, and Matthew L.

Springer. One Minute of Marijuana Secondhand Smoke Exposure Substantially Impairs Vascular Endothelial Function. *Journal of the American Heart Association*, July 2016. <http://jaha.ahajournals.org/content/5/8/e003858>

ⁱⁱ California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.
<http://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/proposition-65//p65single080516.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, February - December 2015 Referenced Tables 2 and 11.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/2015-supplementary-tables.html#a11>