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August 12, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P. Minister of Health House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

| REFERRAL TO         |              |  |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| RECOMMENDED         |              |  |
| DIRECTION REQUIRED  |              |  |
| RECEIPT RECOMMENDED | $\checkmark$ |  |

## Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), thank you once again for your ongoing and productive partnership with local governments. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your officials on our shared federal-municipal priorities.

This year, at FCM's March Board meeting, FCM's Board of Directors considered resolutions submitted by its membership. Resolutions adopted by FCM's Board of Directors help inform FCM's policy and advocacy priorities with the Government of Canada. Adopted resolutions represent municipal issues of national significance that fall within federal jurisdiction and therefore require a strong federal partner to help find a solution. The attached resolutions, **Limiting the Access and Appeal of Vape Products to Youth** and **Federal Regulations on Vaping Products**, were adopted at the March 2020 Board of Directors meeting in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Recent studies indicate that vaping is becoming increasingly prevalent, amongst youth, in Canada. Researchers believe that vaping is connected to rising rates of conventional cigarette smoking – challenging older findings, which suggested that youth smoking rates were in decline. These trends have negative implications for young Canadians, since vaping is known to damage the user's lungs and increase airborne concentrations of particulate matter, nicotine, and other toxicants in indoor environments. While this is a public health matter that typically falls within federal and provincial/territorial jurisdiction, local governments are concerned that rising youth vaping rates will have detrimental effects on young people and their communities. A number of key stakeholders share that sentiment, including the Canadian Medical Association, the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health of Canada, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Through the resolution **Limiting the Access and Appeal of Vape Products to Youth,** FCM is calling on Health Canada to move quickly on this issue, by coordinating additional public policies and regulations that address the access, sale, and appeal of vape products to youth; and to ensure the effective enforcement of those policies and regulations, in order to halt the growing use of vape products amongst youth, which has become a concern for local governments.



Through the resolution **Federal Regulations on Vaping Products**, FCM is calling on Health Canada to resolve this issue by implementing the following recommendations:

- Amend the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of vaping products with flavours and flavouring ingredients;
- Strengthen the requirements for warning labels for all vaping products, to contain pictorial warnings and plain, standardized packaging;
- Restrict vaping product access to those aged 19 years and older, in order to prevent youth uptake of vaping products; and
- Amend the Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations, 2001 (pursuant to the Canada Consumer Products Safety Act), to limit the concentration of nicotine in vaping products to 20 mg/mL or less, align with the European Union's directive, and prevent youth uptake of vaping products and dependence upon nicotine, which could lead to cigarette smoking.

FCM looks forward to working with you and your government, in deepening our municipal-federal partnership, through the implementation of the proposed changes to vaping policies and regulations in order to address youth vaping. Although much has changed since our Board adopted this resolution in March, the COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that the health, safety, and financial well-being of Canadians depends on all orders of government working together. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Megan Stanley, Manager of Government Relations, at <a href="mailto:mstanley@fcm.ca">mstanley@fcm.ca</a> or 613-907-6376.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Karsten

Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality

FCM President

# CSCP-2019-05 - Limiting the Access and Appeal of Vape Products to Youth

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has stated that they share the concerns of parents, educators, youth and public stakeholders regarding the increase of youth vaping in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** Health Canada is currently undergoing a public consultation process to gather comments on additional regulatory measures that would aim to reduce youth use of vaping products; and

**WHEREAS** The local governments have limited powers and jurisdiction to protect youth from access, sale and appeal of vape products, including no resources for enforcement; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** That the FCM urge Health Canada to move quickly to coordinate additional public policy and regulations to address access, sale and appeal of vape products to youth, and ensuring effective enforcement, to halt the growing usage of vape products among our youth as a matter of concern to local government and their communities.

City of Coquitlam, BC Region of Peel, ON

February 12, 2020

# CSCP-2020-02 Federal Regulations on Vaping Products

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has stated that they share the concerns of parents, educators, youth and public stakeholders regarding the increase of youth vaping in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** Health Canada is currently undergoing a public consultation process to gather comments on additional regulatory measures that would aim to reduce youth use of vaping products; and

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has recently proposed new regulations to restrict the promotion and advertising of vaping products in places accessible by youth; advertising and broadcast media promotion of vaping products is currently permitted

and there are few restrictions on how vaping products can be promoted in many public spaces; and

**WHEREAS** Flavours and flavouring ingredients that appeal to youth are likely significant in increasing the number of youth that initiate vaping; and

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has recently proposed new regulations on vaping product packaging; health warning labels are an effective method to increase awareness of the health risks; pictorial warnings are more noticeable and associated with stronger beliefs about health risks compared to text-only warnings; and plain and standardized packaging can increase noticeability, recall and perceived credibility of health warnings; and

**WHEREAS** The nicotine concentration of a regular e-liquid in Canada ranges from 0-18 mg/mL, and nicotine salt formulations can contain 18-42 mg/mL; and

**WHEREAS** The local governments have limited powers and jurisdiction to protect youth from access, sale and appeal of vape products, including no resources for enforcement; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** That the FCM urge the federal government to amend the *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* to prohibit the manufacture and sale of vaping products with flavours and flavouring ingredients;

**RESOLVED** That the FCM urge the federal government to strengthen requirements for warning labels for all vaping products to contain pictorial warnings and plain and standardized packaging;

**RESOLVED** That the FCM urge the federal government to restrict access to vaping products to those aged 19 years and older; in order to prevent youth uptake of vaping products; and

**RESOLVED** That the FCM urge the federal government to amend the *Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations, 2001* (pursuant to the *Canada Consumer Products Safety Act*) to limit the concentration of nicotine in vaping products to 20 mg/mL or less to align with the European Union's directive and to prevent youth uptake of vaping products and dependence upon nicotine, which could lead to cigarette smoking.

Region of Peel, ON