

Project overview

In 2018 April, Calgary City Council directed City Administration to “engage citizens and key stakeholders (including Alberta Health Services) to further strengthen the Smoking and Vaping Bylaw 23M2018 with consideration to prohibiting the following:

- Waterpipe smoking in workplaces, public premises and specified outdoor places
- Smoking in multi-unit public housing administered by The City of Calgary
- Smoking and vaping in hotel and motel rooms, in outdoor public parks, and at outdoor public events”

Administration is scheduled to report back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services with recommendations and potential bylaw amendments in late 2019.

Engagement overview

Stakeholder workshops were held to facilitate targeted conversations with key stakeholders regarding potential increased restrictions to The City’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw and the resulting policy implications and regulations. Stakeholders attending the workshop participated in a modified world café format where they had the opportunity to provide feedback on a series of questions through small group table discussions and to learn about other stakeholders’ varying perspectives. Stakeholder groups included business owners/operators, business organizations, educational institutions, festival and event organizers, and health and regulatory agencies. Participation was limited to two representatives from each stakeholder organization external to The City of Calgary.



Three stakeholder workshops were held over the afternoons and evening of June 17 to June 18, 2019. There were 35 participants that attended the workshops: ten at the June 17 afternoon session, 12 at the June 17 evening session and 13 at the June 18 afternoon session.

What we asked

The following questions were asked during the stakeholder workshops to collect feedback on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises, specified outdoor locations, hotels and motel rooms, outdoor public parks, events and pathways.

TOPIC: Workplaces, Restaurants, Public Premises and Specified Outdoor Locations

1. The direction received from Council is to consider increasing restrictions on smoking and vaping with specific consideration given to prohibiting waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations. Do you agree with this direction for Calgary? Why or why not?
2. Tell us more about how potential changes to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations may impact you or your business or organization.
3. Should waterpipe smoking be subject to the same regulations as smoking or vaping in Calgary? (i.e. 5m from a doorway, not on transit property, etc.)
4. What other regulations or restrictions to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations should we consider?

TOPIC: Hotel and Motel Rooms

1. The direction received from Council is to consider increasing restrictions on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in hotel and motel rooms. Do you agree with this direction for Calgary? Why or why not?
2. Tell us more about how potential changes to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in hotel and motel rooms may impact you or your business or organization.
3. Should we consider other types of restrictions or regulations to smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in hotel and motel rooms? If so, what?

TOPIC: Outdoor Public Parks, Events and Pathways

1. The direction received from Council is to consider increasing restrictions on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in outdoor public parks, at events and on pathways. Do you agree with this direction for Calgary? Why or why not?
2. Tell us more about how potential changes to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in outdoor public parks, at events and on pathways may impact you or your business or organization.
3. Should we consider other types of restrictions or regulations to smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in outdoor public parks, at events and on pathways? If so, what?

What we heard

Overall, there was a mixed level of support from different types of stakeholders for the complete prohibition of waterpipe use in restaurants and workplaces. Most shisha lounge owners/operators were not in favour of a complete prohibition of waterpipe use due to the impacts to their businesses, employees, social opportunities and culture. Most Shisha Lounge owners/operators were in favour of increasing restrictions and regulations in order to offer a healthier, safer place where shisha users can choose to go. Most public health agency stakeholders were in strong support for a complete prohibition of waterpipe use in restaurants and workplaces. There was some concern about the impact of second-hand smoke from shisha consumption to vulnerable populations (e.g. youth, new immigrants) that may not fully know their individual rights or feel empowered to voice their refusal to work in an unsafe environment. Some participants indicated that a combination of policy, enforcement, education and increased safety measures by businesses (e.g. improved HVAC systems) must all take place in order to reduce health impacts.

There was support for strong restrictions and enforcement regarding smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in hotel and motel rooms and that a designated outdoor area should be provided for smoking, vaping and waterpipe use.

There was support for strengthening restrictions on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in outdoor public parks, events and pathways and that prohibiting smoking in public areas where children may be (e.g. parks, pathways, playgrounds, etc.) should be considered. It was indicated that designated smoking areas at events should also be visually separated, and away from designated cannabis and alcohol consumption areas.

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.
- For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Next steps

- Report back to Calgarians on what we heard and what we did in late 2019.
- Stakeholder and public feedback will help City Administration develop the recommendations to be presented to Council in Q4 of 2019.

Summary of Input

TOPIC: Workplaces, Restaurants, Public Premises and Specified Outdoor Locations

<p>Banning Shisha Consumption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants' opinions were mixed about a complete prohibition of waterpipe use in restaurants and workplaces. Public health agency stakeholders were in favour of prohibition of waterpipe use, whereas most shisha lounge owners/operators and other business operators were in favour of strengthening restrictions and regulations rather than a complete ban. Participants were in support of age restrictions, improved ventilation systems and increased regulations for shisha lounges.
<p>Financial Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed concerns about banning shisha and the significant impacts to shisha lounge owners in terms of losing their business, investments they have made to upgrade ventilation systems, staff losing their jobs and the cultural and social impacts. Shisha lounge owners/operators were concerned about how they would be compensated for their investments to upgrade their ventilation systems as requested by The City in January 2019.
<p>Vulnerable Populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were concerned about the impact of smoking, vaping and waterpipe use to vulnerable populations (e.g. youth, new immigrants) that may not fully know their individual rights or feel empowered to voice their refusal to work in an unsafe environment.
<p>Policy and Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated that policy, enforcement, and education need to work together. Start on problem areas, health impacts, where people can/can't smoke, vape, etc. Once policy starts to change, then social norms will help to reduce smoking. Some participants indicated that tobacco, vape and shisha should be regulated separately.
<p>Health Concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed the need to focus on forcing workplaces, restaurants, etc. to make their environments healthy for staff rather than the staff being responsible for the healthy environment or being put at risk. Participants expressed concerns about health impacts of shisha in workplaces/shisha lounges on workers and patrons. Several scientific facts were provided by stakeholders to highlight the negative health impacts of shisha and to demonstrate the high level of concern for those who consume it or those exposed to it second-hand. Despite the scientific facts shared, some participants felt that smoking shisha was not as detrimental to your health as stated by health professionals. Some participants indicated that shisha establishments offer a safer environment to operate hookah pipes vs. other places that may have a higher potential for misuse, poor cleaning practices and exposure to minors.
<p>Designated Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated the need to consider providing designated smoking areas in order to prevent smoking in non-appropriate areas where there is greater risk for fire and inappropriate disposal. Also designated areas can reduce exposure of second-hand smoke to children and to people who choose not to smoke.
<p>Community Gathering Places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated that shisha lounges are important in providing opportunities for sober social gathering areas where you can connect with others from the community. Participants expressed concerns about the impact of banning shisha on business, culture, and social opportunities. They were also concerned that banning will encourage shisha in homes or other places around children and non-smokers and people may be at higher risk to get involved with alcohol or get into trouble.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated that shisha lounges create a sense of community and connection and that consuming shisha reduces stress. Some participants indicated that it was equally important to consider the social and cultural uses of shisha while also considering public health.
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TOPIC: Hotel and Motel Rooms

Strengthening Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, participants were in support of strong restrictions to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in hotel and motel rooms and indicated that Calgary may be behind on total bans in hotel and motel rooms versus other major cities.
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that there needs to be better enforcement on smoking on the premises at hotels and motels.
Designated Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated that designated smoking areas need to be provided so people don't smoke elsewhere in non-appropriate areas. Participants also indicated that designated smoking areas should be placed away from windows, doorways, air intake systems and where children may be.

TOPIC: Outdoor Public Parks, Events and Pathways

Strengthening Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were generally in support of strengthening restrictions on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in outdoor public parks, events and pathways. However, some participants didn't see an issue with smoking outside as long as it wasn't around children. Participants indicated that signage should be placed to indicate where designated areas are located in parks and at events. There was some confusion about why cannabis use was allowed in areas where smoking, vaping and water pipe use was not.
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that there should be consideration for prohibiting smoking in all public areas where children may be (i.e. parks, paths, playgrounds, etc.). Participants indicated that they were concerned about the potential of modelling behaviour with children being able to see the smoking activities.
Clear Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants indicated that there needs to be clear definitions of parks in the bylaw that clearly demonstrate where anyone can go without restrictions (children, pets, adults, etc.).
Designated Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that designated smoking areas at events should be provided and that they be visually separated, and away from designated cannabis and alcohol consumption areas.
Fire Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that it is important to investigate the number of fires / grass fires that occur in parks to establish whether they were contributed to by smoking, vaping and/or waterpipe use.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Project overview

In April 2018, Calgary City Council directed City Administration to “engage citizens and key stakeholders (including Alberta Health Services) to further strengthen the Smoking and Vaping Bylaw 23M2018 (hereafter also referred to as The City of Calgary’s Smoking Bylaw) with consideration to prohibiting the following:

- Waterpipe smoking in workplaces, public premises and specified outdoor places
- Smoking in multi-unit public housing administered by The City of Calgary
- Smoking and vaping in hotel and motel rooms, in outdoor public parks, and at outdoor public events”

Administration is scheduled to report back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services with recommendations and potential bylaw amendments in late 2019.

Engagement overview



The City hosted a questionnaire on its online Engage platform to solicit feedback from Calgarians regarding a review of The City’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw and the resulting policy implications and regulations. Along with the questions, participants were provided with information regarding current legislation and terms and definitions relating to smoking methods and products. The questionnaire was hosted on The City of Calgary’s online Engage portal from June 17 – July 7, 2019 and received 5,172 responses.

What we asked

The following questions were asked using The City of Calgary’s online Engage portal to collect feedback on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises, specified outdoor locations, hotels and motel rooms, outdoor public parks, events and pathways.

Strengthening The City of Calgary’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

1. **Are you familiar with The City of Calgary’s Smoking Bylaw that addresses smoking and vaping of tobacco in Calgary?**

Very familiar | Somewhat familiar | Not really familiar | Not aware of it at all | Prefer not to answer

2. **Based on your understanding of the Provincial and Municipal regulations, select the answer that best reflects your opinion about The City of Calgary’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw:**



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard

June / July 2019

The bylaw should be strengthened to further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use |

The bylaw is adequate and does not need to be further strengthened |

Don't know/prefer not to answer | If you selected 'The bylaw should be strengthened to further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use' above, please tell us how.

SMOKING

3. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think smoking should be allowed or should not be allowed.

- In designated hotel and motel rooms
- Near a bus stop, bus shelter or C-train station
- In parks with athletic facilities (e.g. skate parks, sports field, outdoor skating rink, racquet courts, outdoor track)
- In parks with playgrounds (e.g. play structure, spray park / water play park)
- Near outdoor pool
- On public park trails and pathways (e.g. Bow River Pathway System)
- At outdoor public events (e.g. market, festival, concert)
- Sidewalks in all public areas
- Near a door, window or air intake of any building
- In workplaces or restaurants (e.g. shisha lounges, vape shops)

VAPING

4. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think vaping should be allowed or should not be allowed.

- In designated hotel and motel rooms
- Near a bus stop, bus shelter or C-train station
- In parks with athletic facilities (e.g. skate parks, sports field, outdoor skating rink, racquet courts, outdoor track)
- In parks with playgrounds (e.g. play structure, spray park / water play park)
- Near outdoor pool
- On public park trails and pathways (e.g. Bow River Pathway System)
- At outdoor public events (e.g. market, festival, concert)
- Sidewalks in all public areas
- Near a door, window or air intake of any building
- In workplaces or restaurants (e.g. shisha lounges, vape shops)



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

WATERPIPE

5. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think waterpipe use should be allowed or should not be allowed.

- In designated hotel and motel rooms
- Near a bus stop, bus shelter or C-train station
- In parks with athletic facilities (e.g. skate parks, sports field, outdoor skating rink, racquet courts, outdoor track)
- In parks with playgrounds (e.g. play structure, spray park / water play park)
- Near outdoor pool
- On public park trails and pathways (e.g. Bow River Pathway System)
- At outdoor public events (e.g. market, festival, concert)
- Sidewalks in all public areas
- Near a door, window or air intake of any building
- In workplaces or restaurants (e.g. shisha lounges, vape shops)

Regulating shisha and waterpipe use

6. Currently shisha (herbal or herbal/tobacco blend product) and waterpipes (or hookahs) are not treated the same as smoking or vaping, and are allowed in restaurants or lounges. Should they be regulated the same way as smoking and vaping?

Yes | No | No, but they should be subject to further regulations | Don't know/ Prefer not to answer | Please tell us why

Designated smoking areas at outdoor public events

7. Should public events such as markets, festivals and concerts be allowed to have designated smoking areas where smoking, vaping or waterpipe use are allowed?

Yes | No | Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Enforcement of restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public

8. How important is it to you that The City has the resources to enforce restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public? This could mean hiring additional enforcement officers or adjusting enforcement priorities

Very important | Somewhat important | Not very important | Not at all important | Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Waterpipe use in The City of Calgary's Smoking Bylaw

9. Currently smoking and vaping are treated the same in Calgary's Smoking Bylaw – should waterpipe use also be:



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard

June / July 2019

Treated the same | Treated differently | Not sure | Please tell us why

Cigarette Litter

10. How important is it to you that The City focuses resources on reducing cigarette litter in public places?

Very important | Important | Not important

11. How much would you be comfortable with The City spending (per year) to address cigarette litter in public places?

No additional investment (\$0) | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 to \$100,000 | \$100,001 to \$500,000 | More than \$500,000



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Demographics

To help us better understand and analyze the feedback we received, we asked respondents to answer the following questions. Note: Respondents' answers are anonymous:

12. Which of the following apply to you (please select all that apply):

Resident of Calgary | Business owner or manager in Calgary | Government agency employee | Not-for-profit or charitable organization | Prefer not to answer | Other (please specify)

13. With which gender do you identify:

Female | Male | Prefer Not to Answer | Other (please specify)

14. Please select your age range:

Under 18 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65 and over | Prefer not to answer

15. Do you currently:

Smoke tobacco | Vape (products with or without nicotine) | Smoke shisha (herbal or herbal/tobacco blend product)

16. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

17. How did you hear about this survey?

In the news (TV news, newspaper, etc.) | Through social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | Word of mouth | Other (please specify)

What we heard

Strengthening The City of Calgary's Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

The majority of respondents were somewhat or very familiar with The City of Calgary's Smoking Bylaw and how it addresses smoking and vaping of tobacco in Calgary.

Based on their understanding of the provincial and municipal regulations, respondents' opinions were mixed about whether the bylaw should be strengthened to further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in Calgary. Slightly more respondents indicated that the current bylaw is adequate than those that thought it should be further strengthened.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard

June / July 2019

Respondents were mostly supportive of strengthening the bylaw to further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in the following locations:

- Near a bus stop, bus shelter or C-train station
- In parks with athletic facilities (e.g. skate parks, sports field, outdoor skating rink, racquet courts, outdoor track)
- In parks with playgrounds (e.g. play structure, spray park / water play park)
- Near outdoor pools
- Near a door, window or air intake of any building

Respondents' opinions were mixed about whether the following locations should further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use:

- In designated hotel and motel rooms
- On public park trails and pathways (e.g. Bow River Pathway System)
- At outdoor public events (e.g. market, festival, concert)
- Sidewalks in all public areas
- In workplaces or restaurants (e.g. shisha lounges, vape shops)

Regulating shisha and waterpipe use

Respondents' feedback was mixed regarding whether shisha should be treated the same way as smoking and vaping in restaurants. Some respondents indicated that shisha and waterpipe use should not be treated the same as smoking and vaping and that shisha and waterpipe use should be subject to further regulations.

Designated smoking areas at outdoor public events

The majority of respondents were supportive of designated areas for smoking, vaping and waterpipe use at outdoor public events such as markets, festivals and concerts.

Enforcement of restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public

Respondents' opinions were mixed on how important it is that The City has the resources to enforce restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public.

Waterpipe use in The City of Calgary Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

A slight majority of respondents felt that waterpipe use should be treated the same as smoking and vaping in The City's Smoking Bylaw because of the health risks associated with second-hand exposure to smoke and vapour from them and for consistency within the bylaw about smoking, vaping and waterpipe use.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard

June / July 2019

Cigarette litter

The majority of respondents felt that it is important or very important that The City focuses resources on reducing cigarette litter in public places. Opinions were mixed on the dollar amount that should be dedicated to reducing cigarette litter in public places annually.

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.
- For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Next steps

- Report back to Calgarians on what we heard and what we did in late 2019.
- Stakeholder and public feedback will help City Administration develop the recommendations to be presented to Council in Q4 of 2019.



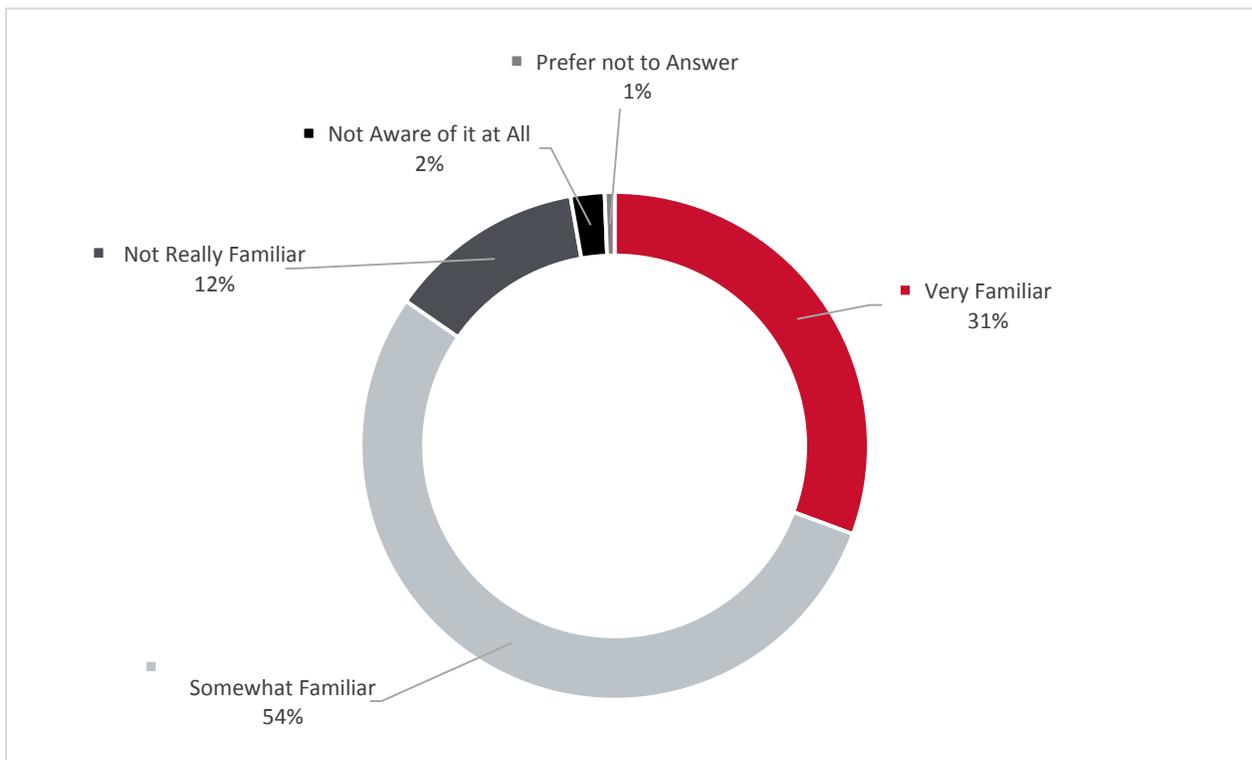
Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Summary of Input

Strengthening The City of Calgary's Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

1. Are you familiar with The City of Calgary's Smoking Bylaw that addresses smoking and vaping of tobacco in Calgary?

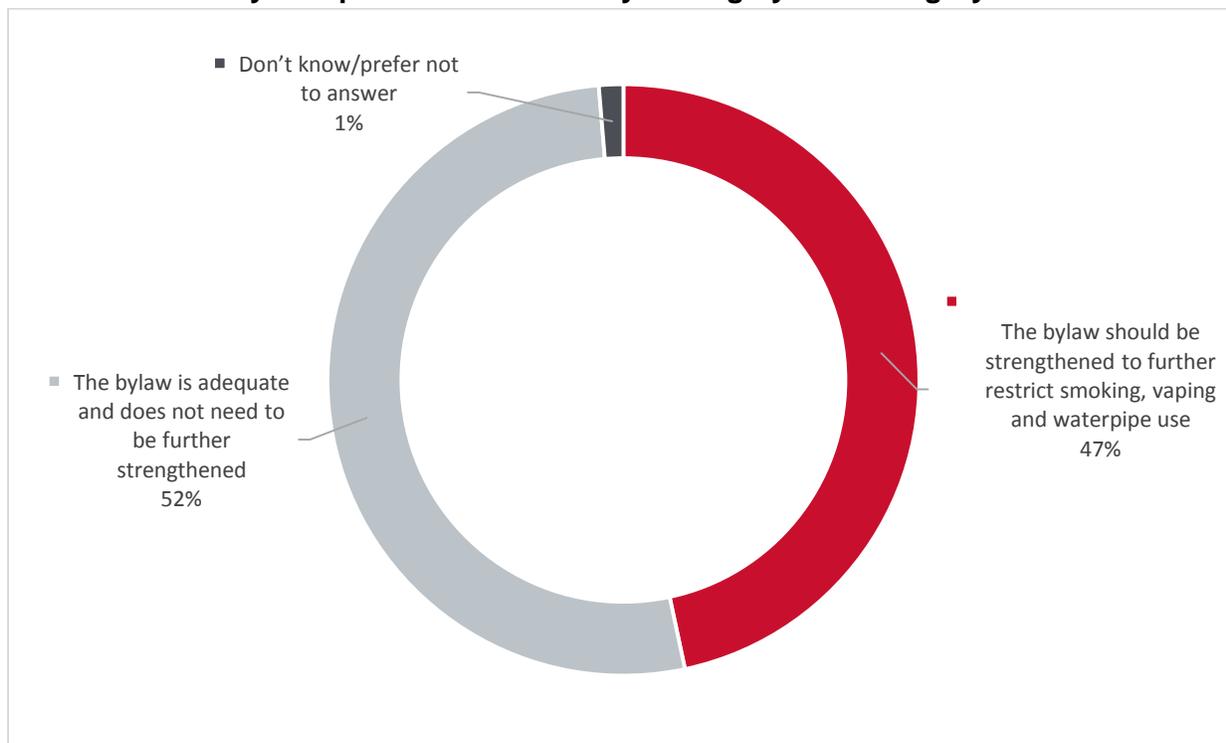




Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

2. Based on your understanding of the Provincial and Municipal regulations, select the answer that best reflects your opinion about The City of Calgary's Smoking Bylaw:



If participants selected 'The bylaw should be strengthened to further restrict smoking, vaping and waterpipe use' above, we asked them to please tell us how:

- Many respondents expressed that all forms of smoking should be treated the same and prohibited in all public places as smoke cannot be contained; therefore non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke and its health risks. In particular, parks were identified as a public space to limit smoking; sidewalks, pathways and locations frequented by children and youth were also mentioned as spaces to limit smoking, though to a lesser degree than parks.
- Respondents voiced the need for increased enforcement, whether the Bylaw is strengthened or not.
- Respondents suggested ideas for all indoor and outdoor designated smoking areas including: separated smoking huts, smoking rooms, and spaces that are a greater distance from entrances and windows.
- Respondents' opinions were mixed about whether indoor waterpipe use at shisha lounges should be restricted. Some respondents were supportive of having a designated enclosed space for indoor waterpipe use, such as shisha lounges, as long as these locations include clear signage (similar to



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

alcohol). Others felt that if shisha is treated the same as tobacco, then indoor waterpipe use should be prohibited in the same way as tobacco and vaping products.

- Several respondents felt that the current Bylaw is too restrictive and should be left the same or be less restrictive in order to provide more freedom for Calgarians who choose to smoke, vape or use waterpipes.

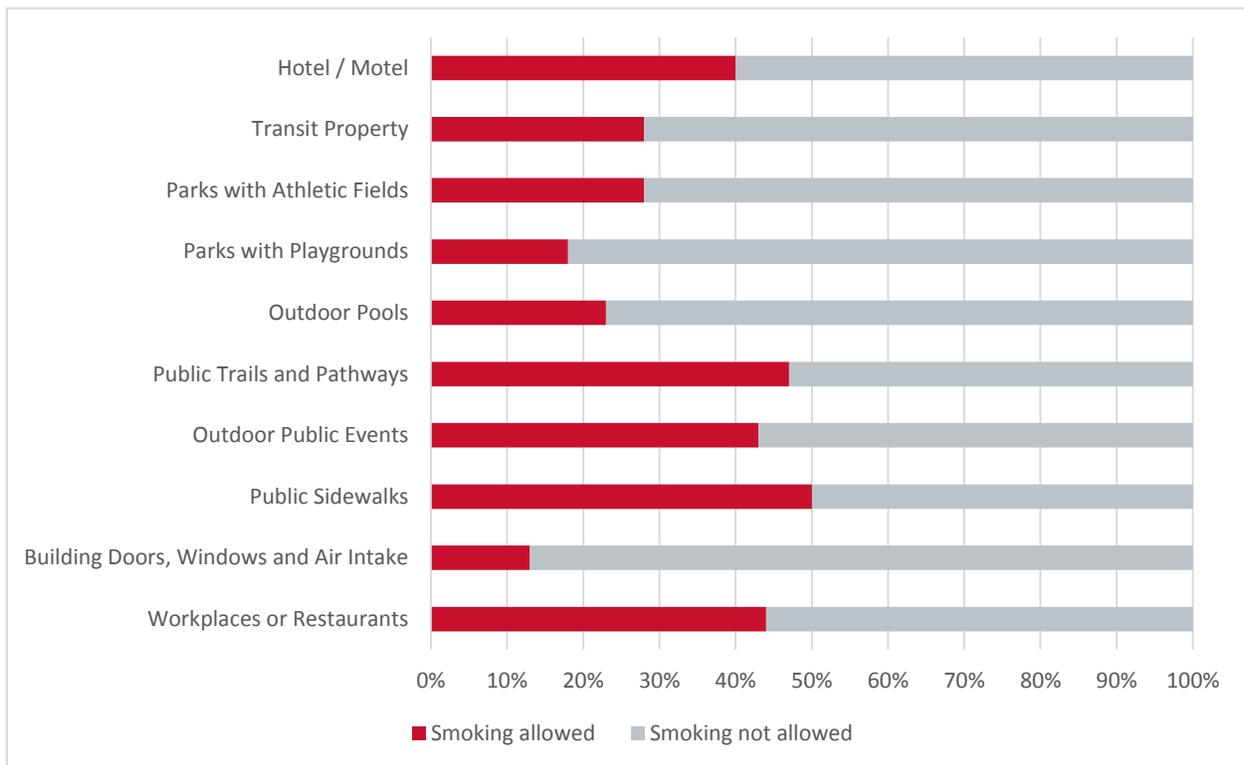


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

SMOKING

3. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think smoking should be allowed or should not be allowed.



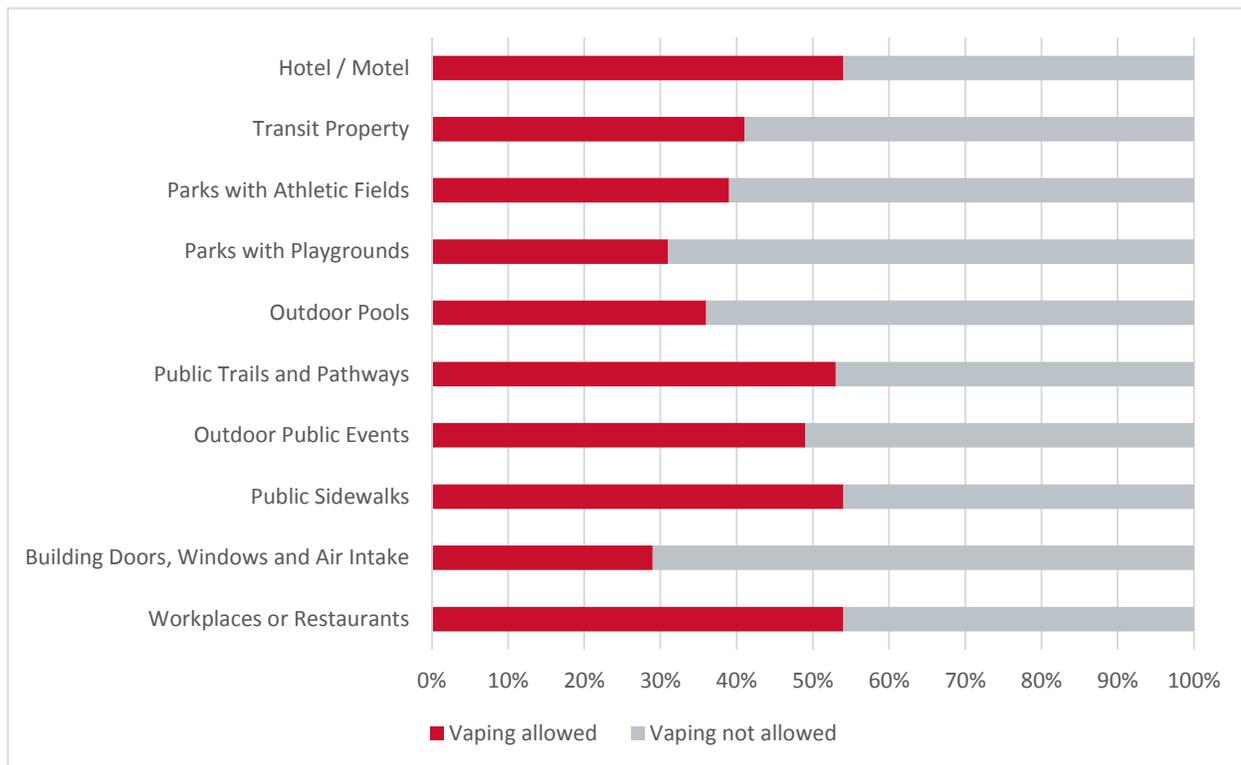


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

VAPING

4. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think vaping should be allowed or should not be allowed.



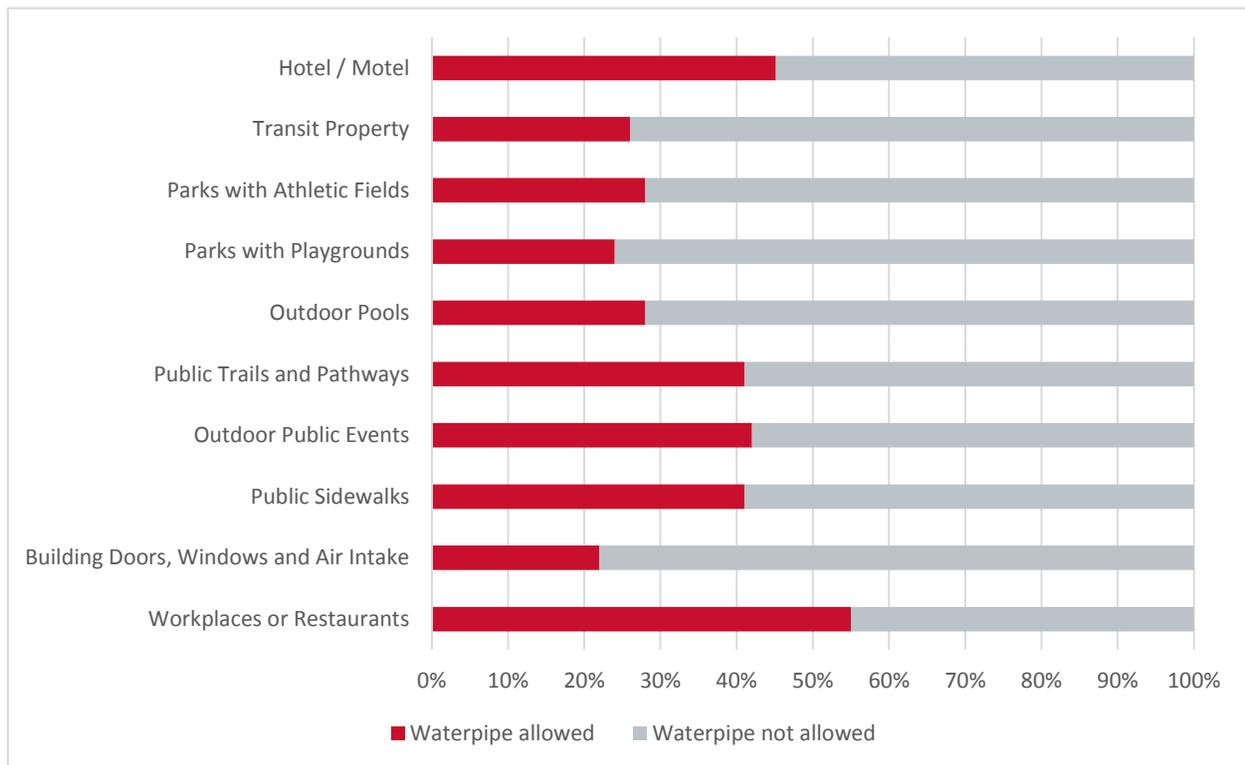


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

WATERPIPE

5. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think waterpipe use should be allowed or should not be allowed.



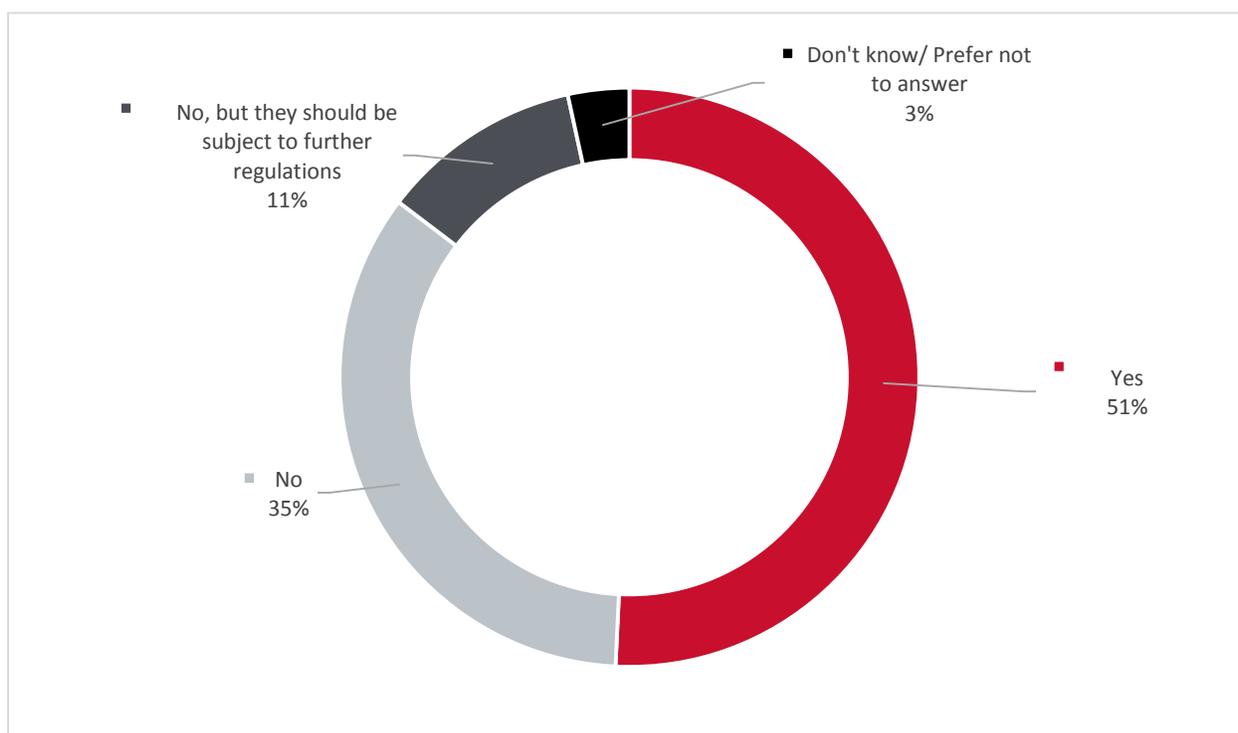


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Regulating shisha and waterpipe use

6. Currently shisha (herbal or herbal/tobacco blend product) and waterpipes (or hookahs) are not treated the same as smoking or vaping, and are allowed in restaurants or lounges. Should they be regulated the same way as smoking and vaping?



If participants selected 'Yes', 'No' or 'No, but they should be subject to further regulations' above, we asked them to please tell us why:

- Respondents that felt shisha should be treated the same way as smoking and vaping in restaurants thought so because:
 - Second-hand exposure to smoke by patrons, employees and those with allergies can pose health risks that should be limited in the business establishment
 - Exposure to youth and vulnerable populations can create learned behaviour and normalize smoking
- Respondents that indicated shisha should not be treated the same as smoking and vaping in restaurants and lounges thought so because:
 - Shisha lounges are a designated establishment where customers can choose to go to smoke shisha and gather socially without being exposed to the consumption of alcohol



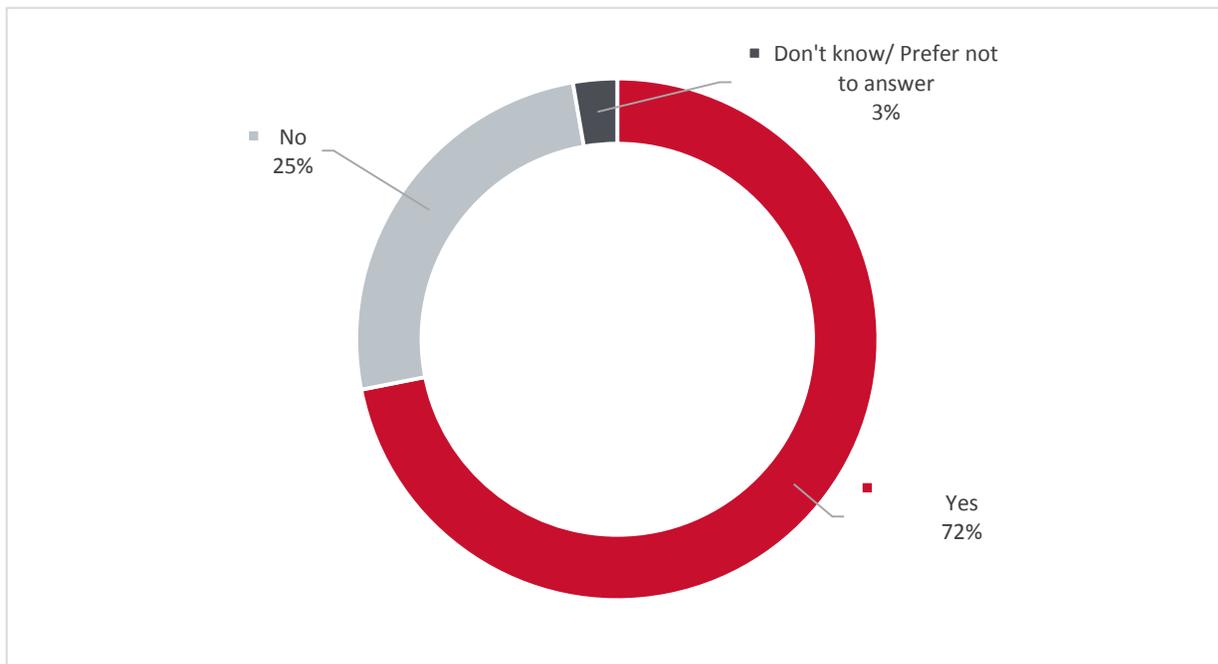
Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

- Banning shisha in restaurants will have a severe impact to the business owners and their employees' livelihoods
- Respondents that indicated shisha should be subject to further regulations thought so because:
 - Potential health risks associated with toxins and carcinogens are present in shisha and efforts should be made to limit exposure to them.
 - Exposure to second-hand smoke can have a significant impact to individuals and the health care system for treatment of exposure-related health problems.

Designated smoking areas at outdoor public events

7. Should public events such as markets, festivals and concerts be allowed to have designated smoking areas where smoking, vaping or waterpipe use are allowed?



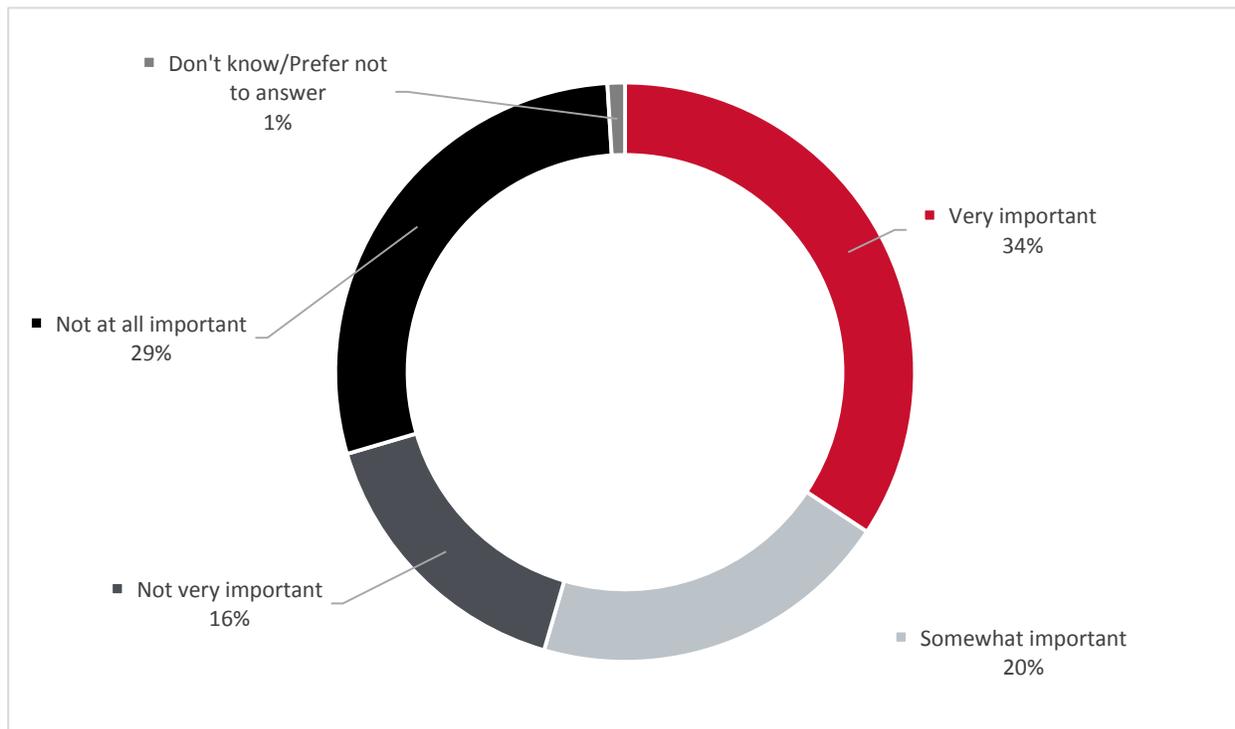


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Enforcement of restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public

8. How important is it to you that The City has the resources to enforce restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public? This could mean hiring additional enforcement officers or adjusting enforcement priorities.



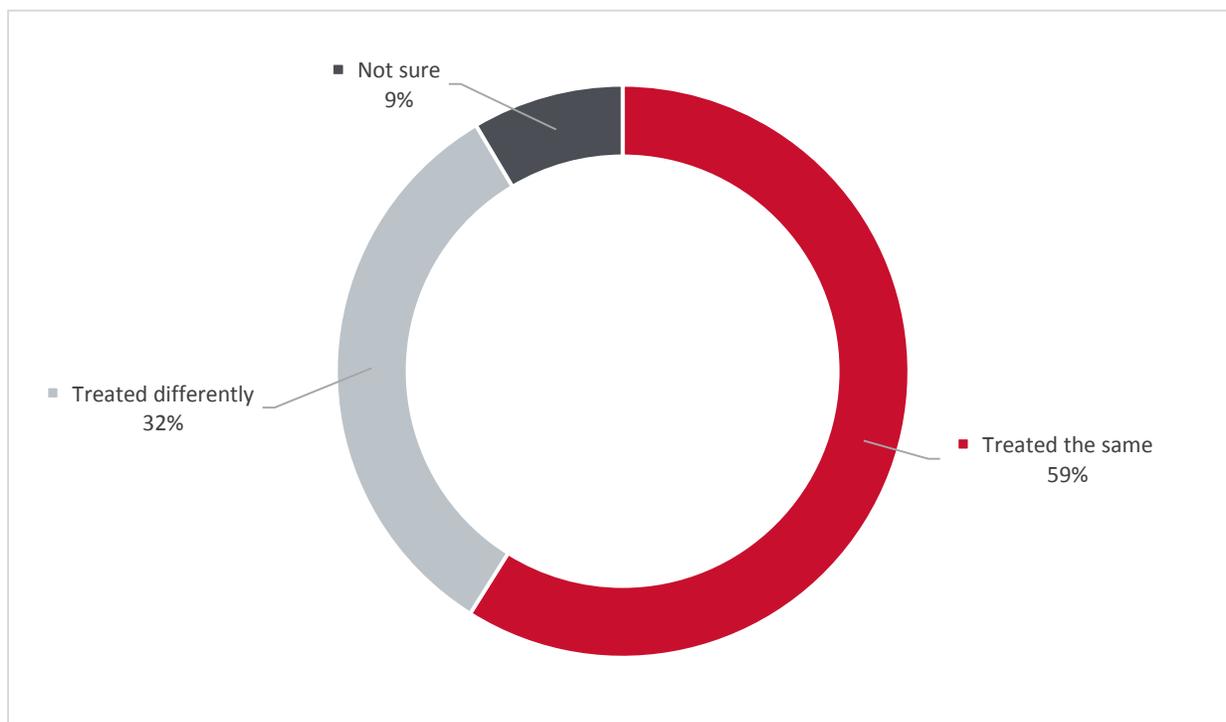


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Waterpipe use in The City of Calgary Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

9. Currently smoking and vaping are treated the same in Calgary's Smoking Bylaw – should waterpipe use also be?



If participants selected 'Treated the same' or 'Treated differently' above, we asked them to please tell us how:

- Respondents who felt waterpipes should be treated the same in Calgary's Smoking Bylaw thought so because:
 - Waterpipe use is the same as smoking and vaping, so they should all be treated the same way
 - There are still health risks to those individuals who use waterpipes
 - Waterpipes give off second-hand smoke/vapour and negatively impact others, in particular people with allergies
 - The City should ensure consistency and clarity with rules and enforcement and aim to eliminate the potential for misinterpretation
 - There is a need to keep waterpipe use away from where children and youth are located and out of public places
- Respondents that felt waterpipes should be treated differently in Calgary's Smoking Bylaw thought so because:



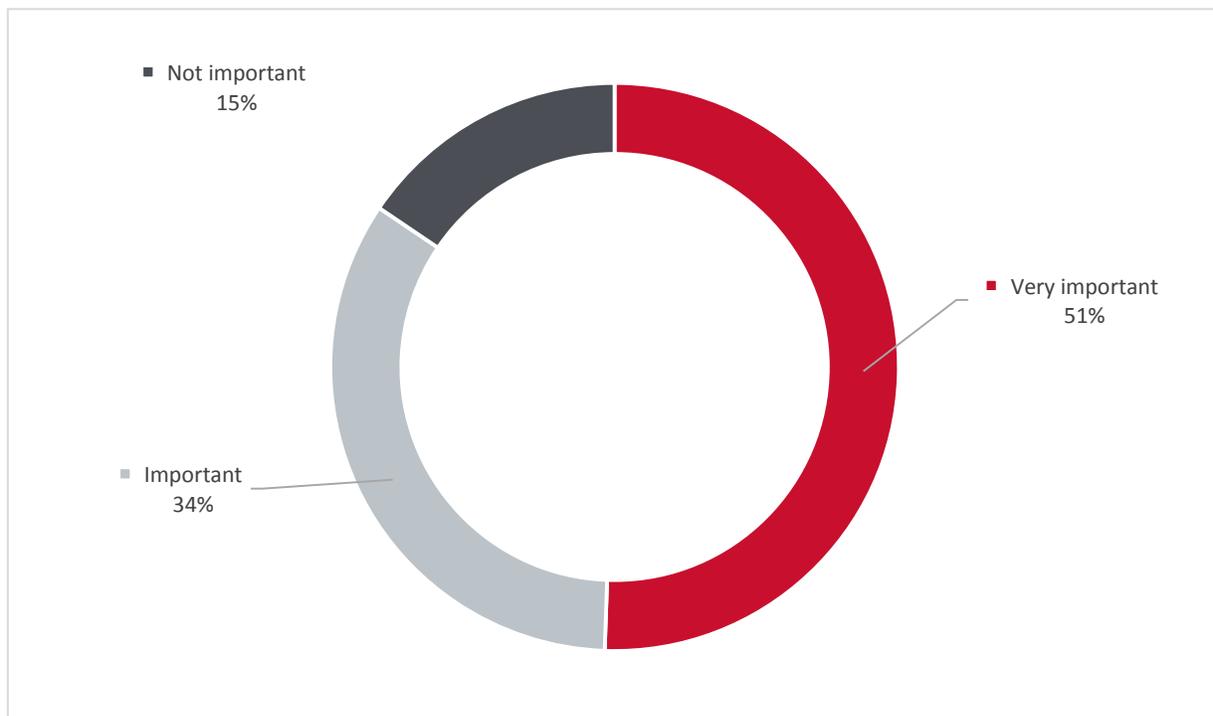
Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

- Waterpipes are not easily transported, so it is not necessary to treat them the same as smoking and vaping
- Waterpipe use has a cultural significance and social component to it
- The impacts to the waterpipe user and others are different and less harmful than smoking and vaping
- Shisha is an herbal product and is not addictive
- People that go to shisha lounges choose to be there and minors are not allowed to be present
- There is the option for additional regulations that could be required for shisha lounges to protect health and safety of users and employees
- Waterpipes do not produce the same amount of air pollution or litter as cigarettes
- Waterpipe use is not an issue so it is not necessary to regulate use and it would be a waste of money

Cigarette Litter

10. How important is it to you that The City focuses resources on reducing cigarette litter in public places?

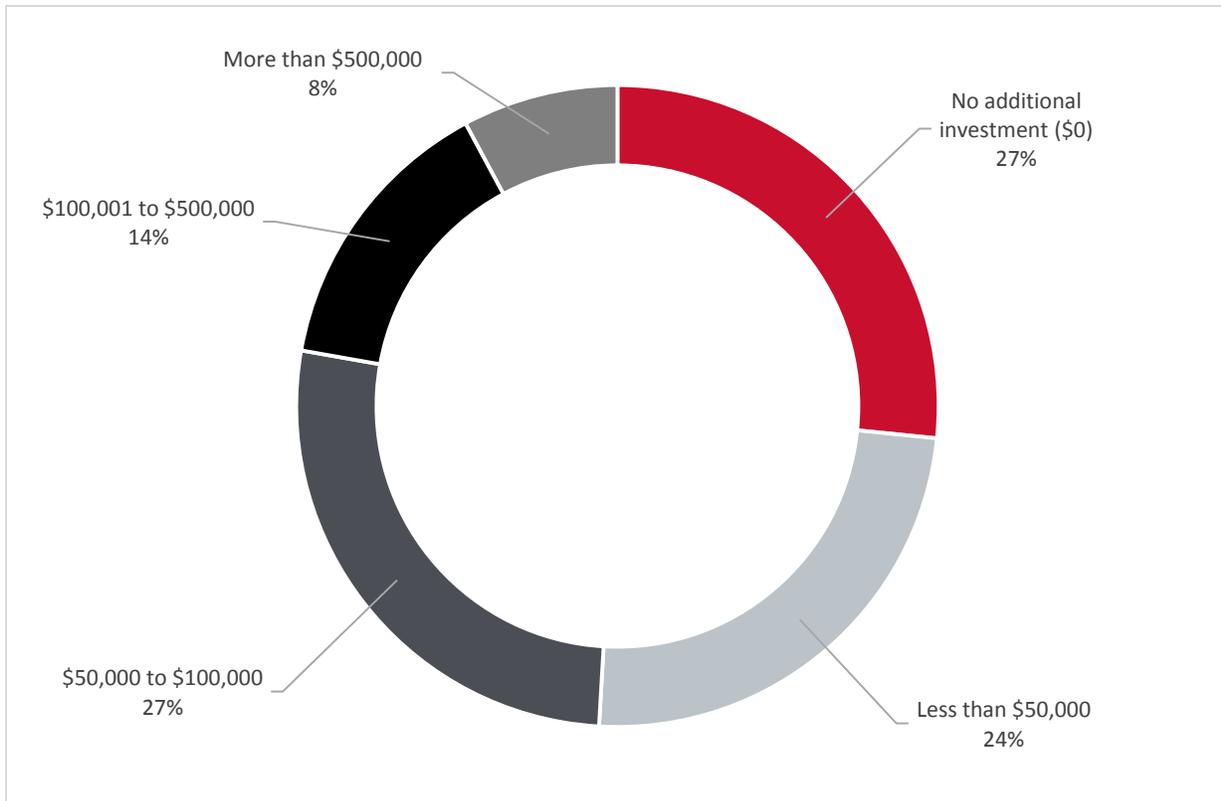




Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

11. How much would you be comfortable with The City spending (per year) to address cigarette litter in public places?





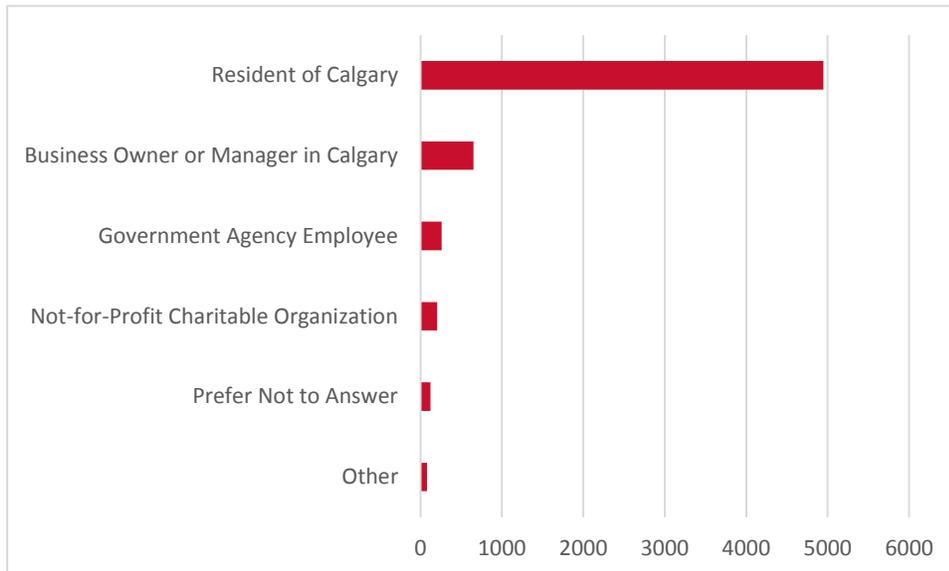
Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

To help us better understand and analyze the feedback we receive, please answer the following questions. Note that your answers will not be in anyway linked to you or your household:

1. Which of the following apply to you (please select all that apply):

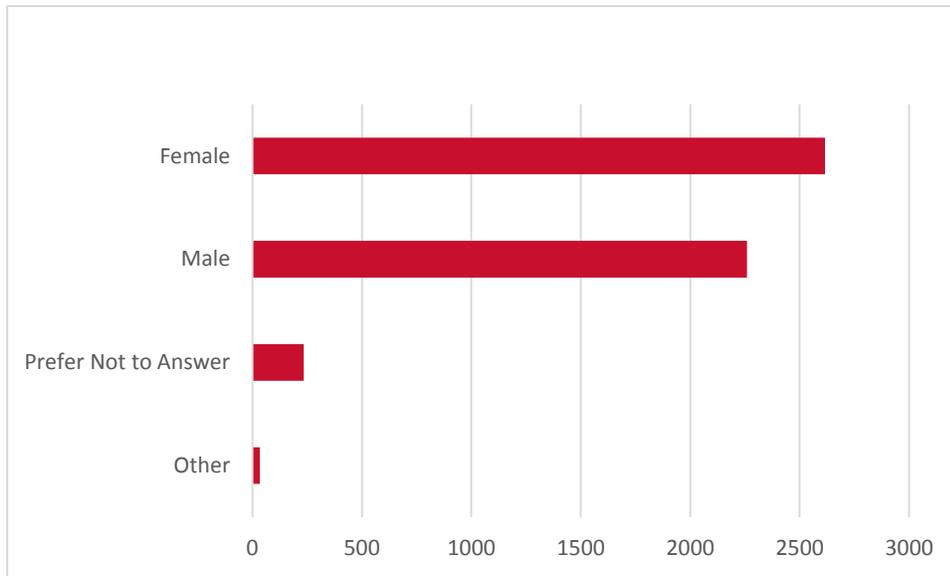




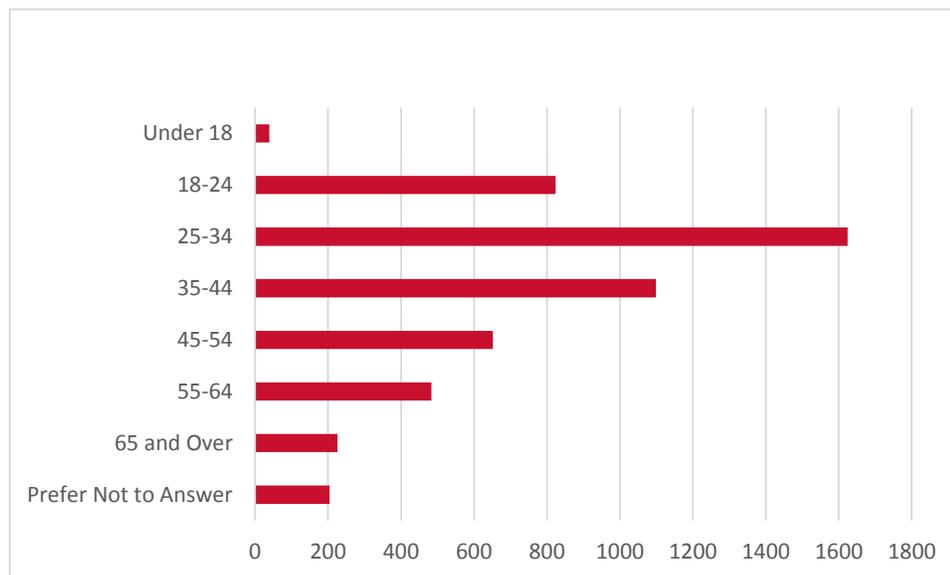
Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

2. With which gender do you identify:



3. Please select your age range:

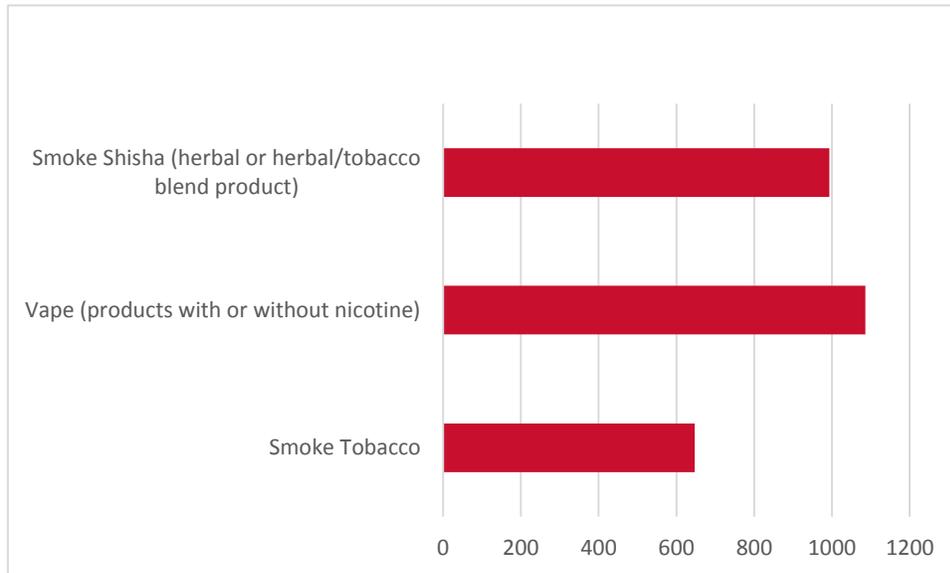




Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

4. Do you currently:





Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

5. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

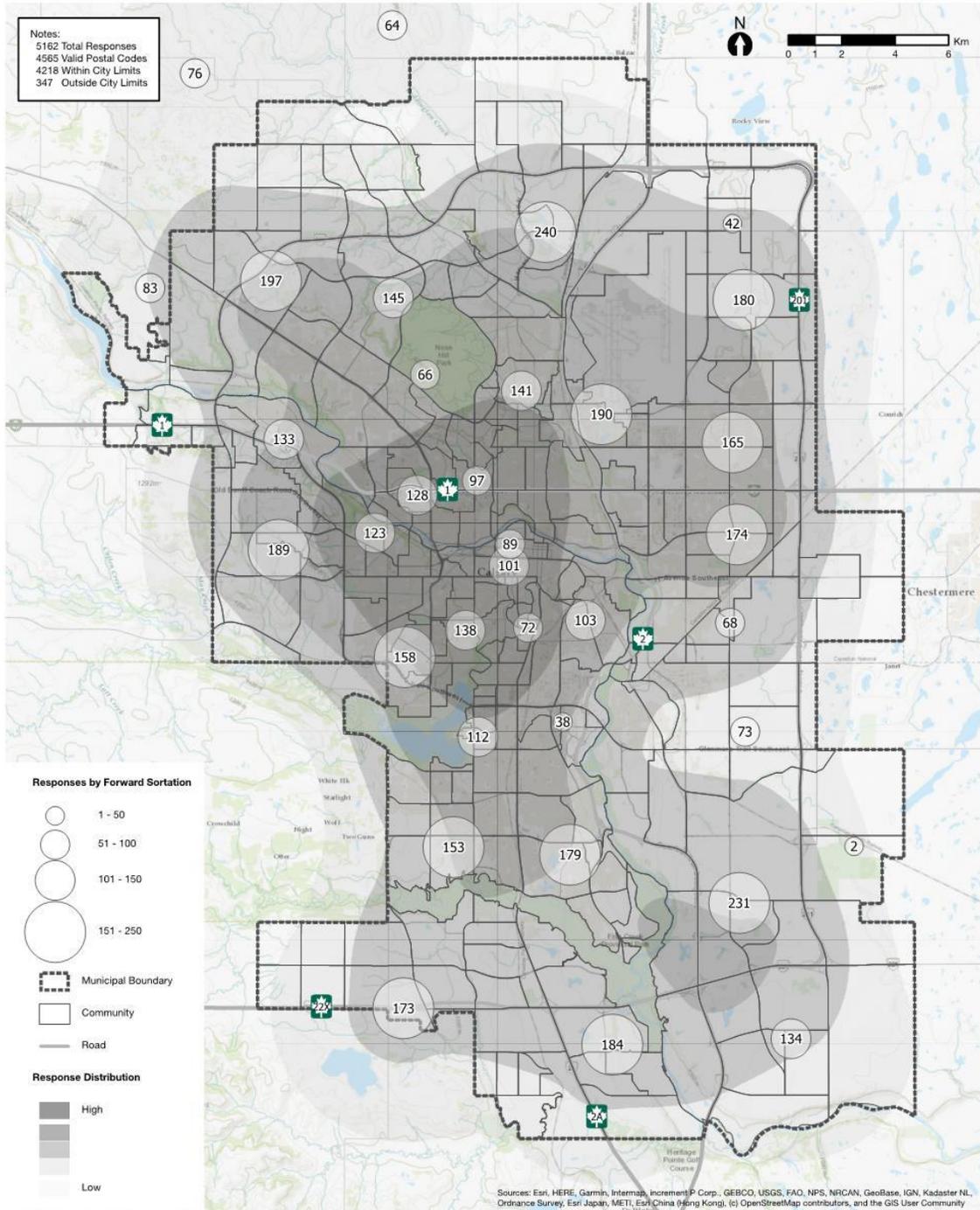


Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

Smoking Bylaw Engagement

Survey Response by Postal Code Forward Sortation Area

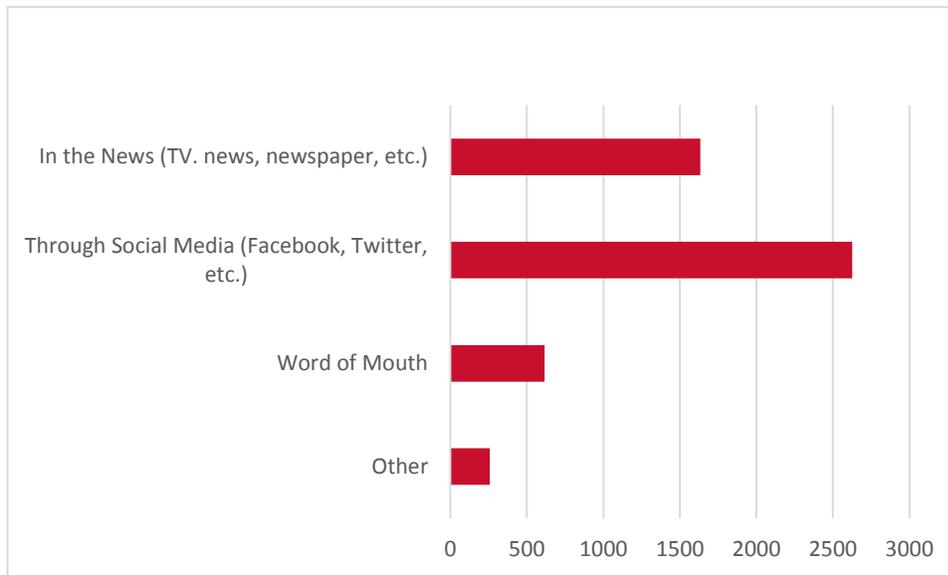




Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Engagement

Report Back: What We Heard
June / July 2019

6. How did you hear about this survey?





Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Stakeholder Interview

Report Back: What We Heard
June 2019

Project overview

In April 2018, Calgary City Council directed City Administration to “engage citizens and key stakeholders (including Alberta Health Services) to further strengthen the Smoking and Vaping Bylaw 23M2018 with consideration to prohibiting the following:

- Waterpipe smoking in workplaces, public premises and specified outdoor places
- Smoking in multi-unit public housing administered by The City of Calgary
- Smoking and vaping in hotel and motel rooms, in outdoor public parks, and at outdoor public events.”

Administration is scheduled to report back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services with recommendations and potential bylaw amendments in late 2019.

Engagement overview

Stakeholder interviews were held to facilitate targeted conversations with shisha lounge owners/operators who may be directly impacted by increased restrictions to The City’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw and the resulting policy implications and regulations. Shisha lounge owners/operators received an invitation to attend a face-to-face meeting to discuss the project and potential implications to their businesses in advance of stakeholder workshops and online public engagement. As this stakeholder group has a vested interest and may be directly impacted by potential amendments to The City’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw, it was important to provide opportunities to meet with representatives of the shisha lounges to learn more about their specific concerns, impacts to their businesses and potential opportunities to be considered.



Invitations were sent to 32 shisha lounge owners/operators.

Stakeholder interviews were held with 15 shisha lounge owners/operators (in-person or over the phone) from June 3, 2019, through to June 14, 2019.

What we asked

The following questions were asked during the stakeholder interviews to collect feedback on smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations:



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Stakeholder Interview

Report Back: What We Heard
June 2019

5. The direction received from Council is to consider increasing restrictions on smoking and vaping, with specific consideration given to prohibiting waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations. Do you agree with this direction for Calgary? Why or why not?
6. Tell us more about how potential changes to regulations for smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations may impact you or your business or organization.
7. Should waterpipe smoking be subject to the same regulations as smoking or vaping in Calgary? (i.e. 5m from a doorway, not on transit property, etc.)
8. What other regulations or restrictions to smoking, vaping and waterpipe use in workplaces, restaurants, public premises and specified outdoor locations should we consider?

What we heard

Overall, there was little support for the complete prohibition of waterpipe use in restaurants and workplaces. Instead, most shisha lounge owners/operators were in favour of increasing restrictions and regulations (e.g. upgrades to ventilation systems, no minors or alcohol and shisha-specific registration/licensing) to offer a healthier, safer place where shisha users can choose to go.

If The City of Calgary decides to move ahead with the prohibition of waterpipe use in restaurants and workplaces, most shisha lounge owners/operators felt they would require an adequate amount of time (5 to 10 years) before a complete ban could take place. This preferred schedule would allow operators to fulfill lease obligations while providing more time to offset business investments, including the required costs to upgrade heating, ventilation and air conditioning HVAC systems.

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.
- For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Next steps

- Report back to Calgarians on what we heard and what we did in late 2019.
- Stakeholder and public feedback will help City Administration develop the recommendations presented to Council in Q4 of 2019.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Stakeholder Interview

Report Back: What We Heard
June 2019

Summary of input

Banning Shisha Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants, for the most part, did not agree with prohibiting waterpipe use in shisha lounges; however, they were supportive of additional regulations, licensing and restrictions on these types of businesses. Participants were supportive of banning consumption of shisha in public areas, (e.g., hospitals, parks, festivals, etc.) and establishments that are not shisha-specific.
Financial Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that banning waterpipe use in shisha establishments would have significant impacts to the business owners through loss of financial investments and livelihood, to the employees and the families of the employees and owners, to the property owners through loss of income from existing leases, and to multiple levels of government through loss of property and business taxes and employment taxes. Many participants were concerned and expressed confusion about the amount of money that most shisha lounges have been required to spend in order to upgrade HVAC systems in the last 6 to 24 months as per the request of City inspectors and why these types of upgrades were required if a complete ban was going to take place in the near future. Participants also indicated that a complete ban could have negative impacts to the social system if so many shisha lounge employees lost their wages and had to collect employment insurance due to lack of work.
Health Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants raised concerns that if a ban was to go forward, shisha consumption would continue in people’s homes and in un-registered establishments that do not have proper ventilation systems, serve alcohol and cannabis illegally, may expose more children to shisha and will not use best practices when cleaning and lighting waterpipes.
Policy and Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were supportive of additional regulations and restrictions on shisha establishments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to HVAC and ventilation systems to improve air quality for patrons and employees, No minors, No alcohol, and Shisha-specific licencing/business permits. Participants felt that waterpipe use should be subject to the same regulations as smoking and vaping in public places.
Regulating Shisha Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants also indicated that it makes sense to begin regulating shisha products to ensure that they do not contain tobacco and they only use approved, high quality and safe ingredients. Regulating shisha would also create an opportunity for revenue generated through taxing the product.
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that a prohibition would require advance notice of up to 10 years to shisha lounge owners and operators in order for financial planning to recover business investments, fulfill lease obligations and for employees to plan and look for alternate work.