

May 26, 2022

Office of the Councillors
C/O Office of the City Clerk #8700
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5
For distribution to Council

Dear Councillors,

Re: Strengthening the Smoking and Vaping Bylaw 23M2018 for the City of Calgary

This letter is to affirm Alberta Health Services' (AHS) support for consideration of the proposed amendments to Calgary's *Smoking and Vaping Bylaw 23M2018* as outlined in [CD2022-0399](#) that would promote a healthier environment and improve protections for Calgarians by:

- prohibiting smoking and vaping in the City's parks and pathway system; and,
- amending the Business License Bylaw to facilitate the regulation and enforcement of businesses selling vaping products.

The inclusion of parks and pathways will enhance protections for children and non-partaking members of the public. Restricting the modelling of smoking and vaping behavior in public parks will help to prevent the normalization of this activity for children, instead allowing the focus to be on the positive experiences and activities in Calgary's parks. It will also expand the supportive environments for current or former smokers or vapers who have stopped or want to stop by removing potential triggers for them.

There are concerns with the changes to the bylaw proposed by **5.1 Events** that allow for the creation of smoking and vaping areas at events and **5.2 Designated Smoking and Vaping Area** that appears to allow the Director to create permanent smoking and vaping areas. These sections are not supported as they are currently worded. The creation of designated smoking and vaping areas can sometimes play a role as part of a transition strategy but there is usually a specific time limit such as 1 or 2 years associated with such an approach. The creation of permanent designated smoking areas would be counter to the intent to restrict the modeling of smoking and vaping. Council may wish to either not include 5.1 and 5.2 in the amendments or include in their wording a date in a year or eighteen months when such designated areas would not be allowed.

The proposed amendment to the business license bylaw is strongly supported. The addition of consultation with Alberta Health Services as a requirement will help ensure that tobacco and vaping retailers are aware of the requirements and their responsibilities under the provincial Tobacco Smoking Vaping and Vaping Reduction Act.

Thank you for your stewardship and your actions to put the health of the public as a priority.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brent Friesen, MD FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Promoting Health, Tobacco, Vaping and Cannabis Program
Provincial Population & Public Health, Alberta Health Services