



E-cigarette Review Update

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E-cigarette Review Update

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Introduction

Background

- In 2014 December, Council approved Phase 2 of the work plan
- This included a citizen survey and further research

Legislative Framework

- E-cigarette use not regulated by:
 - Federal legislation
 - *Alberta Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act (TSRA)*
 - *Calgary Smoking Bylaw 57M92*
- Alberta municipalities have authority to issue bylaws respecting:
 - Safety, health and welfare of people
 - Protection of people and property
 - Nuisances



Survey Findings

- **Calgarians against use in indoor public places:**
 - 70% against use in public buildings, offices, restaurants, stores, or on public transit
 - 60% against use at sports arenas/stadiums
 - 50% against use inside a bar, pub or on patios
- **Calgarians against use near vulnerable groups:**
 - 75% against use near playgrounds
 - 84% against use in healthcare facilities
- **Nuisance concerns:**
 - Close to 50% say e-cigarette vapour is a nuisance
 - More than 50% are uncomfortable near an e-cigarette user
 - Concerns: air pollution, second-hand smoke, odors, health risks



Research Findings

- **International research reports:**
 - E-cigarette vapour may cause eye and respiratory irritation
 - Indoor air quality concerns
 - Not adequately tested for health impacts
- **Federal report recommends:**
 - More funding for additional research on health effects
 - Measures guarding against use by children
 - Prohibiting use in public places
 - Consultation on new federal legislation
- **Provincial reports:**
 - Vapour could affect health of users, especially those with asthma
- **Regulated by 18 Canadian municipalities and 170 U.S. cities**



Recommendations

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information.
2. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw to amend Smoking Bylaw 57M92 to prohibit e-cigarette smoking where tobacco smoking is prohibited:
 - In indoor public places, at workplaces, in public vehicles
 - Within 5 metres of an outdoor pool, skating rink, playground, skate park or sports field
 - Within 5 metres of a doorway, window or air intake of a public place or workplace
 - In Olympic Plaza
3. Request that the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Health advocating for a provincial e-cigarette strategy.





Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

Presentation to City of Calgary SPC on Community and Protective Services: Electronic Cigarettes

Good afternoon Madame Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Angeline Webb, and I am a senior policy advisor with the Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta NWT Division. Joining me today is Suraj Chavda – a health policy graduate student from the University of Alberta, School of Public Health. I am here today to speak to the motion to prohibit e-cigarette use where smoking is currently prohibited and illustrate our support for the Community Services and Protective Services report and its recommendations on electronic cigarettes.

In recent years, the use of electronic cigarettes has increased substantially. As leaders in tobacco reduction, the Canadian Cancer Society has an interest in the use and regulation of e-cigarettes. The Society recognizes the potential benefit that e-cigarettes may provide to Canadians trying to quit smoking. E-cigarettes are almost certainly less harmful than tobacco products. They do not combust tobacco and contain no tobacco smoke which causes cancer. However, the evidence that electronic cigarettes are effective cessation devices or safe consumer products is neither unequivocal nor confirmed; much more research needs to be done to prove safety and efficacy. Other nicotine replacement products are known to help smokers quit and have been approved for use in Canada. However, Health Canada has not approved e-cigarettes with nicotine as a cessation product for sale in Canada. The Canadian Cancer Society believes that public and consumer health and safety must be maintained and be a priority.

Yet, e-cigarettes are widely available in Canada for use among all ages. The Canadian Cancer Society's particular concern is in reference to the high rate of e-cigarette use among youth. Evidence indicates youth are using e-cigarettes even when they would not consider using tobacco products. We find it alarming that kids who would otherwise not smoke are using e-cigarettes. Studies show that youth perceive e-cigarettes as a healthy consumer product with no negative health consequences and use them to circumvent smoking bans. This may be a result of a sharp increase in public use leading to the social acceptability of the products, heavy life-style promotion and marketing tactics as well as unproven smoking cessation related health claims.

Regulations are needed to prevent young people from using e-cigarettes and to help prevent the marketing and use of e-cigarettes from undermining tobacco reduction efforts. The progress that has been made in tobacco reduction is a result of the de-normalization of smoking behaviours due to smoking bans. Unfortunately, the use of e-cigarettes in public places where smoking is currently prohibited has the very real potential to re-normalize smoking behaviours.

E-cigarettes are designed to simulate the smoking experience. Research indicates that adult smoking behaviors can result in smoking initiation among youth. E-cigarettes and tobacco cigarettes have very similar qualities such as appearance, behavioral use and perceptible emissions. Although you and I may know the difference between these products, the reality is that children and youth may not. When they see an e-cigarette, what they conceptualize is a cigarette. It is imperative that we prevent youth onset of nicotine addiction – if youth become addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes it is probable that this could lead to tobacco use that will increase their risk of lung cancer and other tobacco-related disease. Allowing e-cigarette use in public spaces where smoking is currently prohibited exposes youth to visual cues that inherently increases the appeal of smoking and has the potential to undermine years of progressive tobacco reduction and public health successes.

Regulating the use of e-cigarettes where smoking is currently prohibited will not take e-cigarettes away from individuals who have found these devices have helped to decrease or outright stop their tobacco use. Instead the regulations are necessary to protect youth and public health. This is an unregulated industry that needs more oversight if electronic cigarettes are to be classified as a valid and safe cessation tool and a safe consumer product.

The Canadian Cancer Society, along with a host of other credible health groups such as the World Health Organization, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Action on Smoking and Health and The Lung Association to name a few, is



Canadian Cancer Society
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recommending governments adopt regulatory measures that protect public health and consumer safety, including municipal regulations such as prohibiting e-cigarette use in places where smoking is banned by law.

Please join the many other Alberta and Canadian municipalities moving forward in improving public health and protecting youth by regulating e-cigarette use in public places.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important health issue.

Presentation to City of Calgary Community Services & Protective Services Committee
on Electronic Smoking Devices (June 9, 2015)

Silvina Mema MD, MSc

Senior Resident Physician training in the specialty of Public Health & Preventative
Medicine at the University of Calgary (speaking on behalf of 17 resident physicians)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of the recommendations to include
electronic smoking devices through an amendment to the City of Calgary Smoking
Bylaw.

The inclusion of e-cigarettes under the bylaw will protect youth and vulnerable
populations from:

- nicotine addiction
- possible dangers of e-cigarette vapour
- the troubling pattern of growing use by non-smokers

There are many unanswered questions surrounding the safety of e-cigarettes and their
total impact on smoking rates. However, based on the best currently available data, it is
important to use this opportunity and act to minimize the risk to the public while still
allowing private use by individuals for smoking cessation or as a potentially safer
alternative to cigarettes (harm reduction tool).

We advocate for a bylaw amendment as a prudent, precautionary approach to take
while further evidence becomes available to clarify the risks and benefits. It is important
that we be proactive to protect the health gains that have been made in preventing
youth from starting to smoke as well as reducing the overall rate of smoking in the
population.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to the committee on this urgent issue.