



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Stakeholder Workshops

Report Back: What We Heard - June 2019

Engagement overview – Stakeholder Workshops

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 workshops 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.

Summary of Input

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

Banning Shisha Consumption	<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 regulations rather than a complete ban. Participants were in support of age restrictions, improved ventilation systems and increased regulations for shisha lounges.
Financial Impacts	<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 HVAC systems as requested by The City in January 2019.
Vulnerable Populations	<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.
Policy and Enforcement	<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.
Health Concerns	<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.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Designated Areas	<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.
Community Gathering Places	<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. 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.

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 ignited by smoking, vaping and/or waterpipe use.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement Online Survey

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Engagement overview – Online Survey

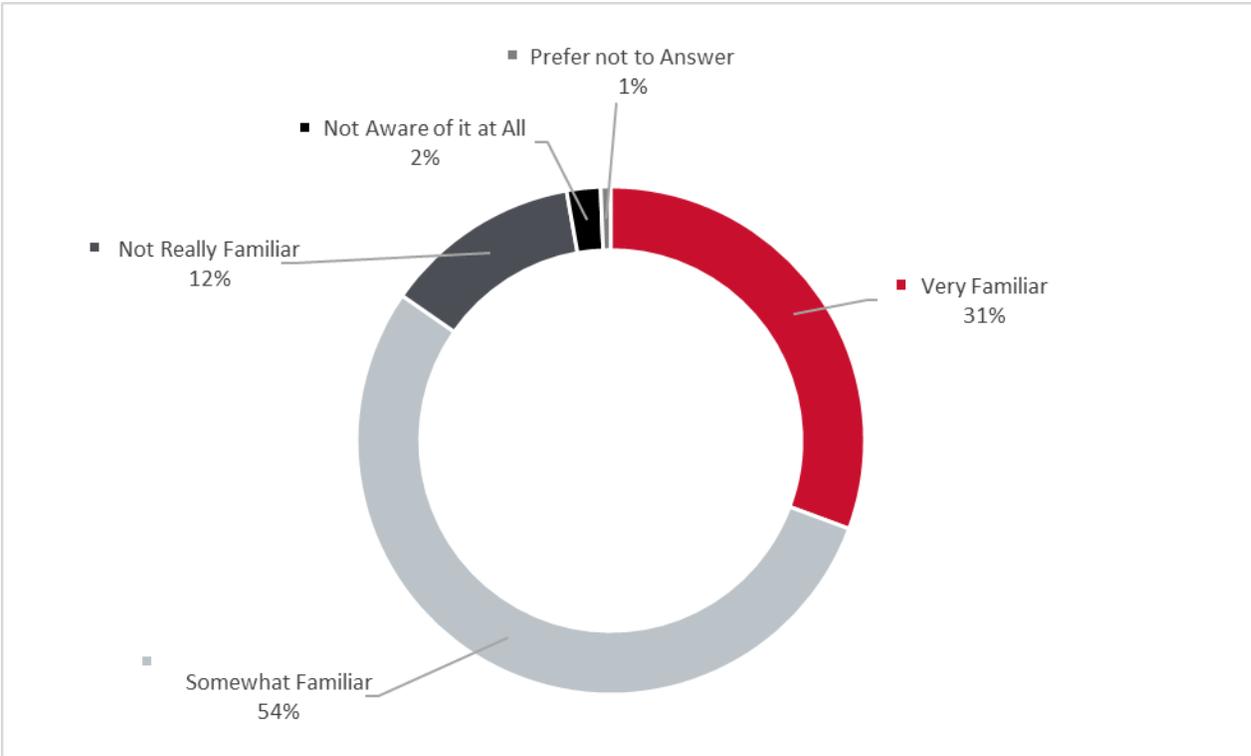


The City hosted a questionnaire on its online Engage platform to solicit feedback from Calgarians regarding a review of The City’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw and the resulting policy implications and regulations. Along with the questions, participants were provided with information regarding current legislation 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.

Summary of Input

Strengthening The City of Calgary’s Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

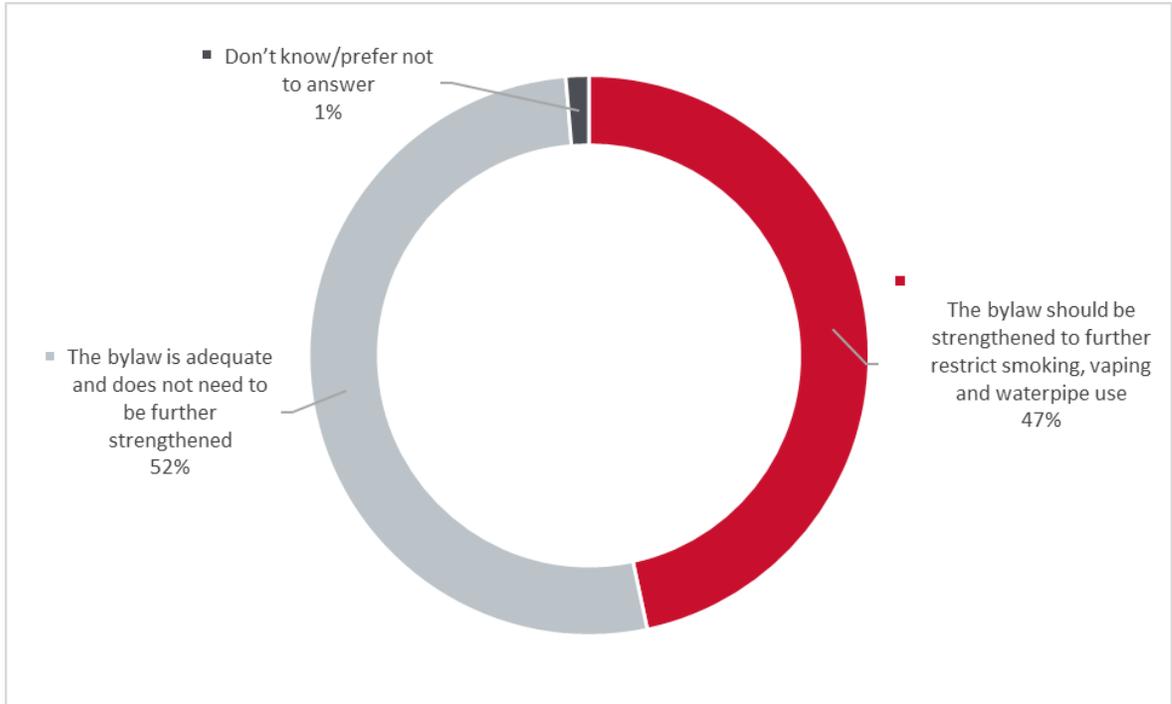
1. Are you familiar with The City of Calgary’s Smoking Bylaw that addresses smoking and vaping of tobacco in Calgary?



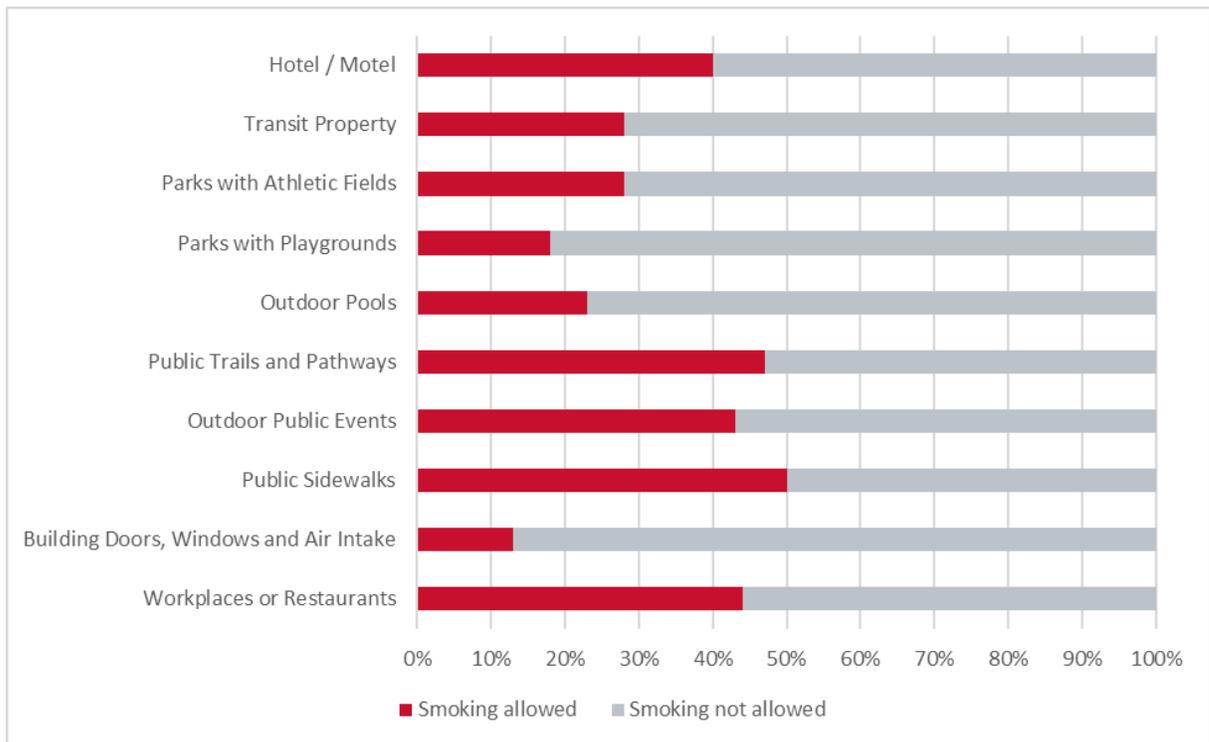
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2. Based on your understanding of the Provincial and Municipal regulations, select the answer that best reflects your opinion about The City of Calgary's Smoking Bylaw:



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

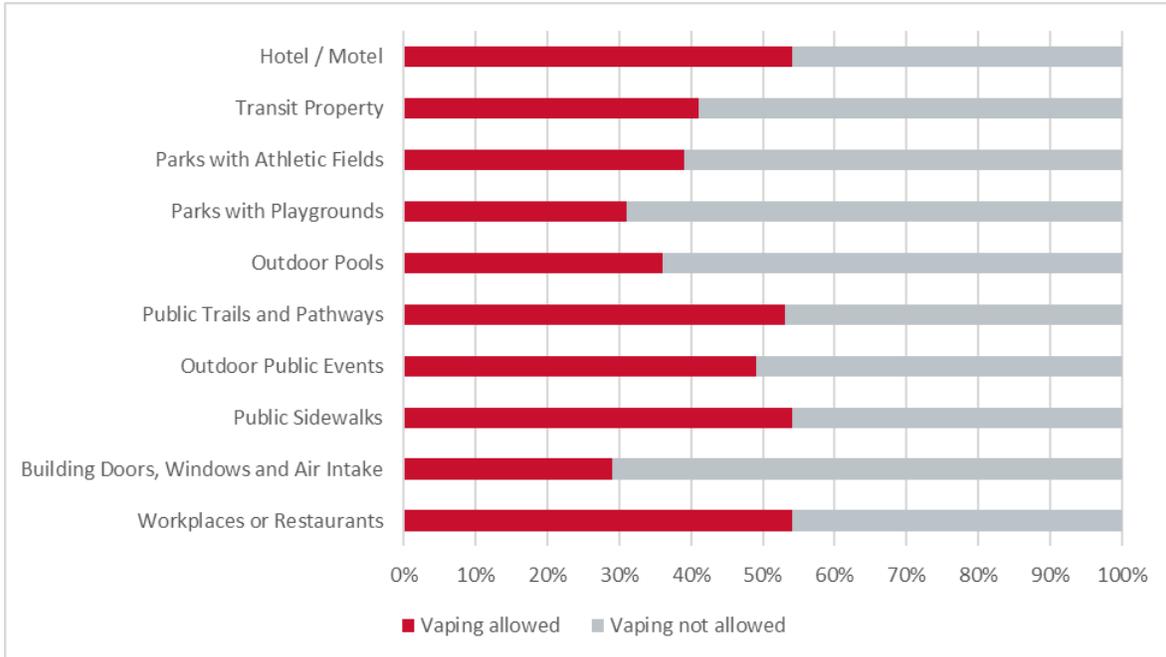




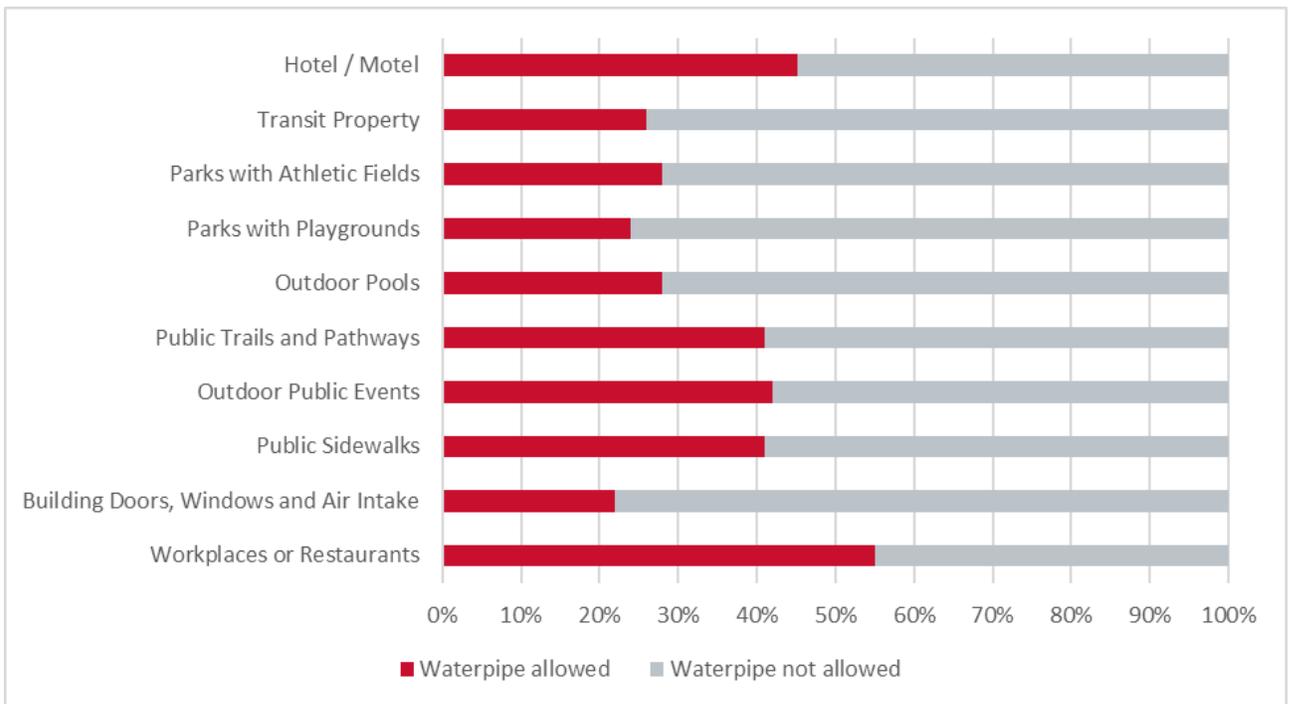
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For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think vaping should be allowed or should not be allowed.

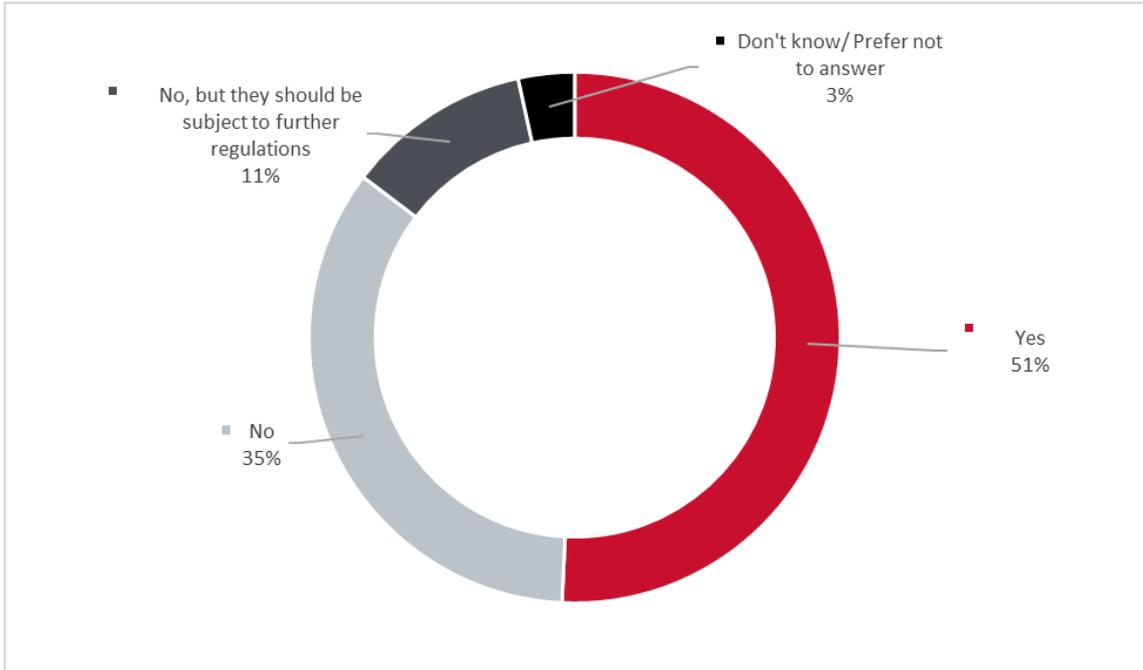


4. For each of these types of spaces, please indicate whether you think waterpipe use should be allowed or should not be allowed.



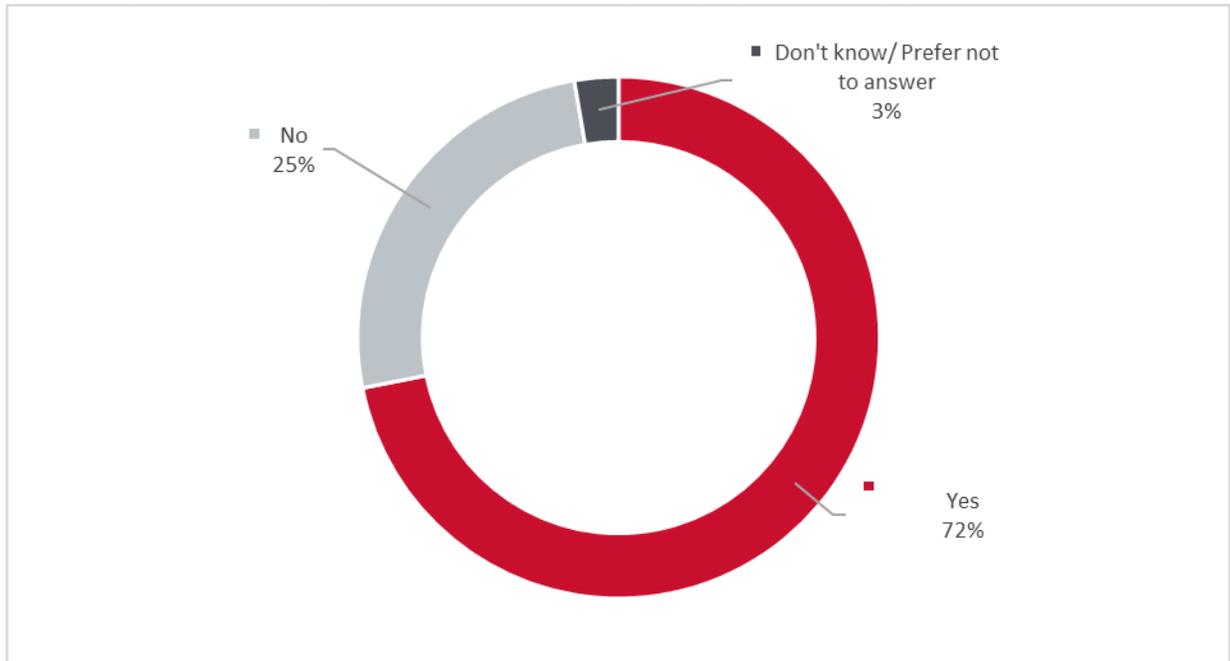
Regulating shisha and waterpipe use

5. 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?



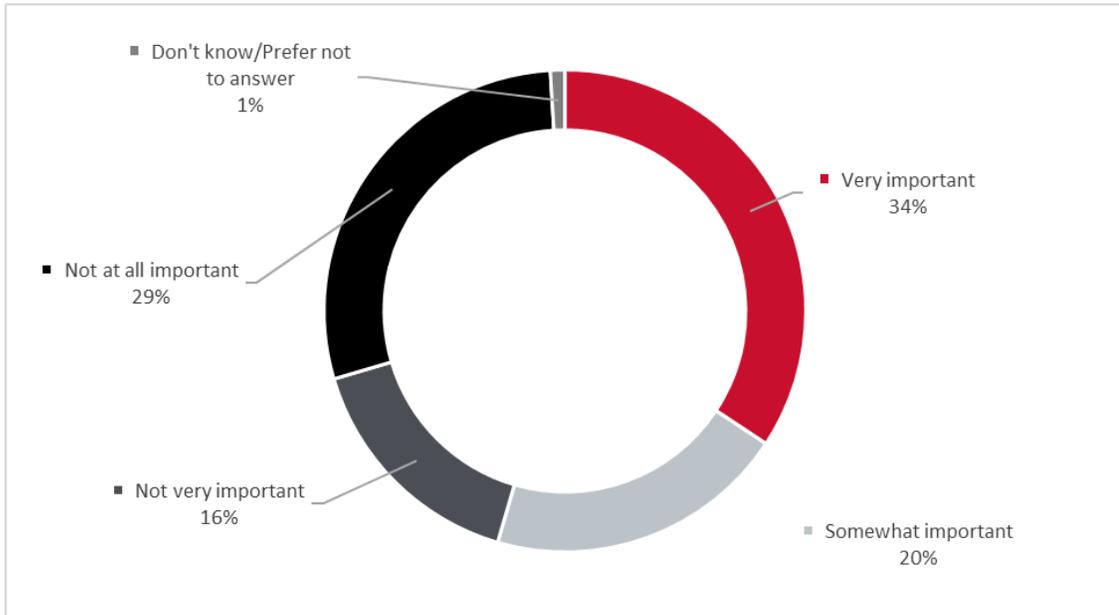
Designated smoking areas at outdoor public events

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



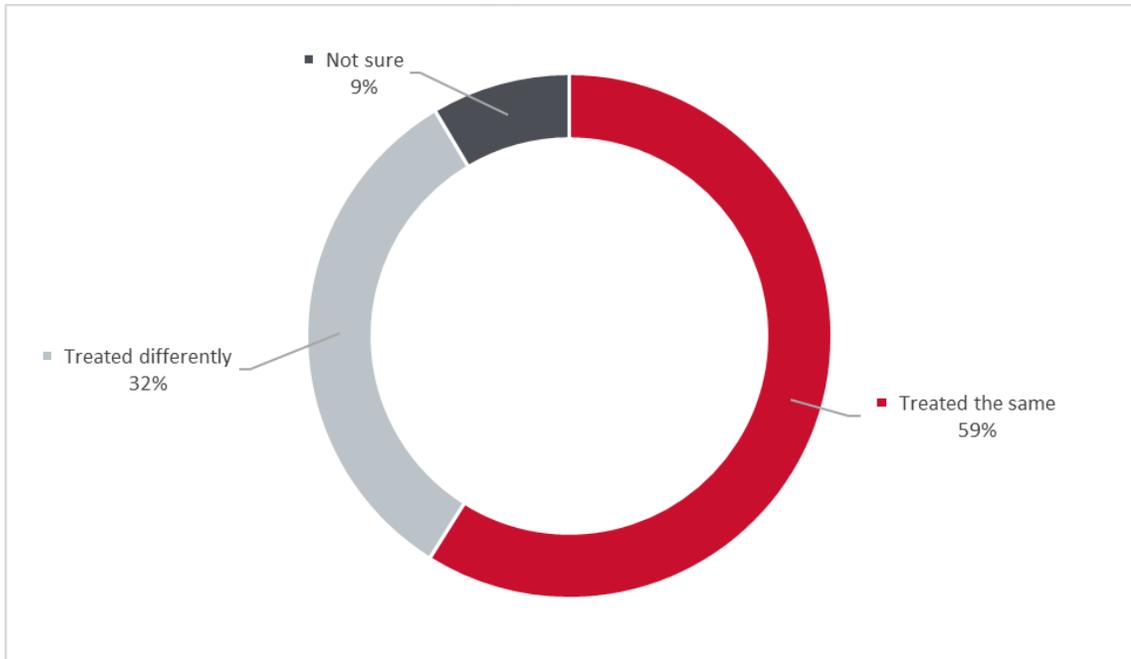
Enforcement of restrictions on smoking, vaping or waterpipe use in public

7. 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.



Waterpipe use in The City of Calgary Smoking and Vaping Bylaw

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





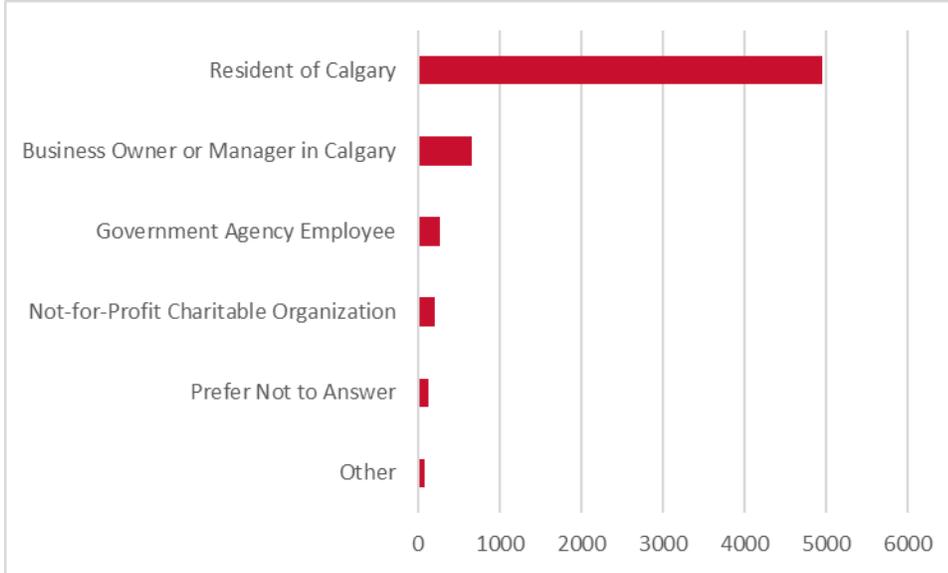
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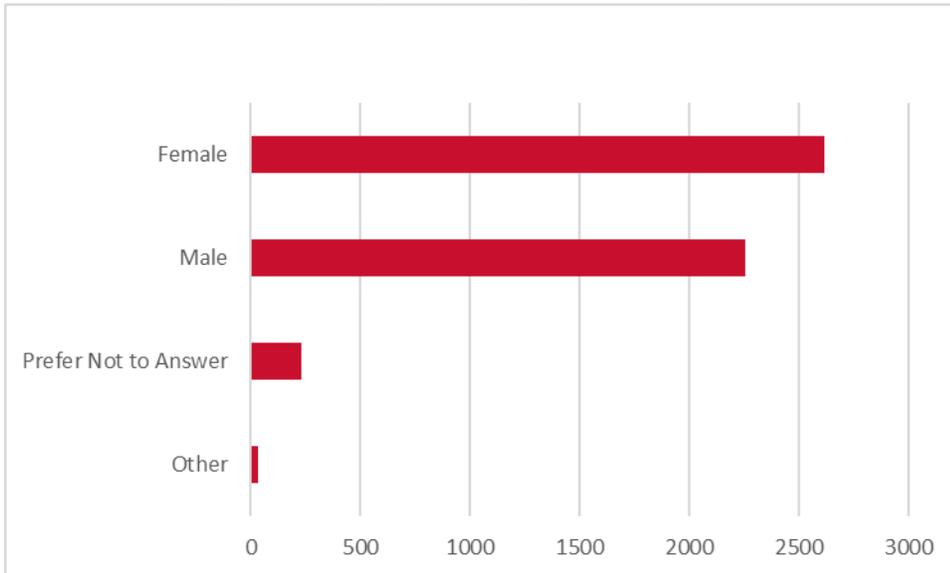
DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

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):



2. With which gender do you identify:

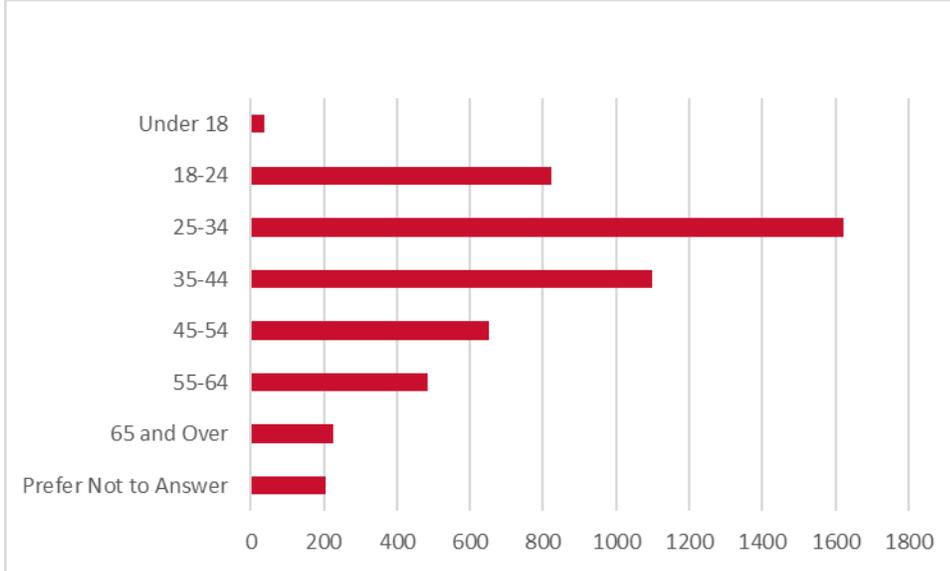




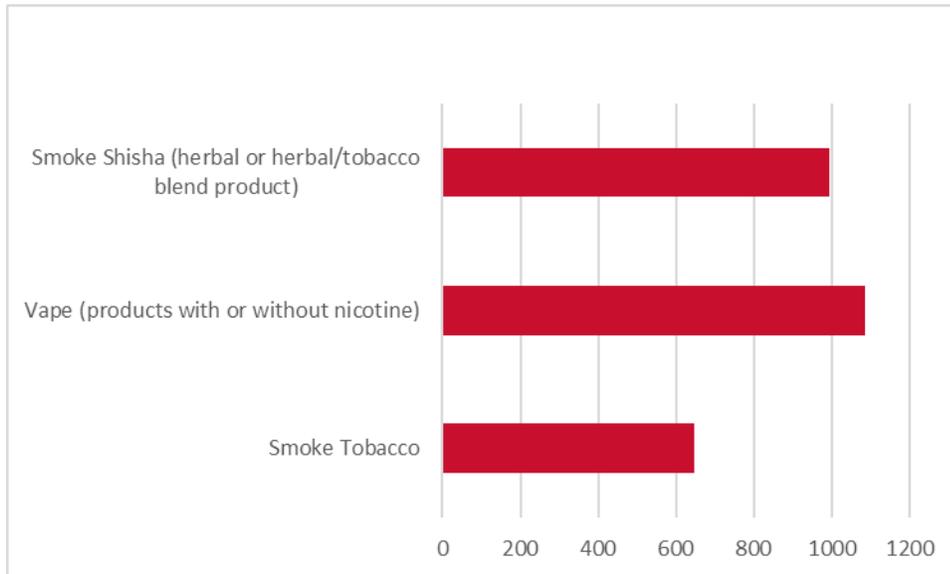
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3. Please select your age range:



4. Do you currently:



Engagement overview – Stakeholder Interviews

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:

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 regulations for 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?

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.



Smoking and Vaping Bylaw Engagement

Stakeholder Interview

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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.

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.