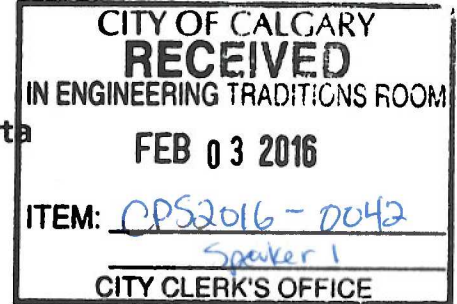


## United Vape Retailers Association of Alberta



### Vaping versus Smoking

Smoking is the burning (combustion) of tobacco and hundreds of additives. Combined, these combinations produce thousands of chemicals, of which over 50 are known to cause cancer.

Vaping is a practice of using a heating element to atomize a liquid solution known e-liquid or 'juice' into an aerosol or vapour. There are only four ingredients in 'juice' or e-liquid:

- 1) Vegetable glycerine - Glycerin doesn't carry flavour very well, but does produce a lot of vapour
- 2) Propylene glycol (PG) - A main ingredient in albuterol, or asthma inhalers, and is perfectly safe to inhale when vaporized. PG has proven safe for inhalation for over 50 years and is incidentally one of the most tested products used in the Food and Beverage as well as Medication industries.
- 3) Flavours - which are food-grade, can be natural or artificial.
- 4) Pharmaceutical-grade nicotine - all juice manufacturers make their product available in varying nicotine strengths from 0 to 24 mg/mL

### E Cigarettes versus Vaping

An **electronic cigarette** looks like regular cigarettes; they are readily available at convenience stores and gas stations. The most popular brands are Vuze and Blu which are produced and marketed by large tobacco companies; specifically Imperial Tobacco and RJ Reynolds. These devices are pre-filled and must be replaced with new cartridges. They have very limited choice in flavours, nicotine concentrations and are not reusable over the long term.

Unlike gas stations or convenience stores, Vape Shops market "**Personal Vaporizer Devices**" occasionally called "**Vapes**" or "**Mods**". These devices contain electronics allowing the user to regulate the power levels and produce vapour. Mods, so named because the original vaporizers were a heating coil mounted on a modified flashlight, are for use with reusable atomizers.

Keys to successfully switching from smoking:

- Right device and proper training
- Right amount of nicotine based on current smoking habit
- Flavour of choice
- Community of fellow Vapers to provide an ongoing support network and continuing information so as to increase ability to modify tobacco habits.

### What are the risks from 'vaping'?

There is no smoke, and thus no second hand smoke risk.

Public Health of England did an extensive study which determined there is a 95% harm reduction to the user and 100% reduction to secondary harm.

### Who are the United Retailers Association (UVRA)?

## **United Vape Retailers Association of Alberta**

Group of vape retailers who have recognized the value of quality products, service, and information for their customers.

The UVRA has adopted self-regulating principles to ensure public confidence in their products and ensures customer safety.

- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle of no sales or marketing to any individual under the age of 18.
- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle that all e-liquids require constant and extensive testing for integrity and quality of ingredients.
- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle of continuous and extensive training of staff and customers in order to ensure a positive and effective use of Vape equipment.
- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle of safety to their customers, by ensuring all products are of the upmost quality and ensuring the correct combinations of products are employed so as to guarantee a positive experience. Including providing information and training for devices bought outside the UVRA (internet purchases).
- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle of accurate and effective labeling and packaging to ensure integrity of product and to discourage use by minors.
- All members of the United Vape Retailers Association abide by the principle of an ongoing commitment to Vaping as a Harm Reduction approach to the cessation of smoking.

### **UVRA Position on Regulation**

**Bylaw – Nuisance regulation that promotes responsible users**

**Provincial Legislation – Recognizing the value of vape retailers in the switch from smoking and consumer safety and ensuring consumer safety and confidence. Enables smokers to successfully switch through training, testing and sampling in a Vape store. No sales or marketing for those under 18 years of age.**

**Health Canada - testing**