



Rights4Vapers.com

Applying A Tax On Vaping May Expose Vapers And Smokers To Additional Health Risks

Edmonton, Alberta – October 25, 2019 – The United Conservative Party of Alberta has announced that it will introduce a tax on vaping products in its 2020 budget. The ripple effect of this tax will push Alberta vapers that rely upon these products to the illicit market, exposing them to higher risk, and deter smokers who are looking for less harmful and affordable alternatives from making the switch.

“This is a cash grab by the Alberta government at the expense of the health of Albertans,” said Dr. Chris Lalonde, an academic advisor for Rights4Vapers.com, an advocacy group for Canadian vapers. “Vaping products should be affordable, available and accessible to any adult smoker who wants a less risky alternative to smoking. The government is doing a disservice to Alberta smokers and vapers.”

The proposal by the Alberta government comes at a time when there are hundreds of reports of vaping-related illnesses in the U.S., and at least four reported cases in Canada. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have not conclusively identified one product or substance involved in all of the cases. Most of the individuals became ill after purchasing illegal black market vapes, including those that contain THC.

[With a thriving illicit market](#) for vape products, why would a government introduce a tax that may incentivize consumers to look to illegal channels? The affordability of vaping is a critical factor in attracting smokers to a safer category of products. This tax is an impulse policy reaction from a government making decisions that are not necessarily in the public’s best interest. This new policy could have dire unintended consequences for the thousands of Canadian adult consumers who rely on vaping products to become or remain smoke-free will be at risk.

Any policy, introduced by our government, should protect consumers before taxing them. Curtailing the black-market channels for vape products and fast-tracking the development and introduction of Canadian manufacturing standards is the appropriate and only policy response that we should consider.

“A balanced approach to policymaking requires an understanding that tobacco harm reduction products are a viable solution for smokers wishing to quit smoking and requires a hard look at the evidence. One thing is certain; smoking is the leading cause of preventable death. Making vaping products less affordable for adult smokers who want to quit is simply poor public policy,” concluded Dr. Lalonde.

About Rights4Vapers.com

Rights4Vapers.com is an organization of vaping advocates dedicated to the advancement of Canadian-based research on vaping. Dr. Chris Lalonde is an academic advisor.

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