



[Rights4Vapers.com](https://Rights4Vapers.com)

## **ADULT VAPERS IN PEI WILL BE FORCED BACK TO SMOKING DURING PANDEMIC**

**Charlottetown, PEI – March 20, 2020** – [Rights4Vapers.com](https://Rights4Vapers.com) urges the PEI government to revoke policies that will prevent access to vape products and which may trigger severe nicotine withdrawal symptoms or force vapers to return to smoking, further exacerbating the public health crisis.

On March 1, 2020 PEI's government required all convenience stores to remove vape products from their shelves, restricting access to these [life-saving alternatives](#) in the same place where tobacco products are sold. Vaping is recognized by [leading public health experts a 95% less harmful way](#) to deliver nicotine than cigarettes and research has shown them to be effective in helping smokers quit. Recognizing this, PEI's government allowed for vape products to continue to be sold specialty vape shops. Until yesterday.

In a response to the Co-vid pandemic, [PEI's government closed all non-essential services, including specialty vape shops](#). Vapers won't be able to order their products online either. [Canada post will no longer be delivering products that require signature](#). Cigarettes will remain available. "Depriving a vaper of their products forces them to be faced with severe nicotine withdrawal symptoms that are physical, emotional and mental, which adds to their distress during a very difficult time," said Dr. Lalonde academic advisor to Rights4Vapers. "If vapers can't get their products, there is the very REAL risk that they will revert back to smoking cigarettes."

In [PEI tobacco use accounts for approximately 250 deaths per year in the province. Up to half of the Island's 18,282 adult smokers are likely to become ill or die from tobacco use](#). It is critical that policy makers don't forget the progress many have made to leave tobacco behind and that we do not unnecessarily burden these individuals or the public health care system by limiting their access to these lifelines during a time of crisis.

-30-

### **About Rights4Vapers.com**

[Rights4Vapers.com](https://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. Rights 4 Vapers is the voice of Canadian adult vapers, 98 percent of whom are former smokers.

Media inquiries: [media@rights4vapers.com](mailto:media@rights4vapers.com)