

RIGHTS 4 VAPERS

November 2, 2020

BY EMAIL: premier@gov.bc.ca, HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Joe Horgan
Premier of British Columbia

The Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health, British Columbia

Dear Mr. Horgan and Mr. Dix,

Firstly, congratulations on the NDP's recent electoral. We are British Columbia residents and voters. We are also vapers that have left behind smoking and are eager to help the 750,000 adult smokers in B.C. do the same.

Vaping is a very emotional topic and may not be high on the list of priorities in these uncertain times. However, access to vapour products, for us, and for smokers in British Columbia, is quite simply a question of life or death. Fundamentally, vaping should be treated as a harm reduction product and any legislation that treats vaping as tobacco should be reversed.

More than 30 global and highly reputable public health bodies (including our own Health Canada) have recognized vaping as significantly less harmful than smoking and as an effective quit aid. Here are just a few examples of what they are saying:

Public Health England: "Our new review reinforces the finding that vaping is a fraction of the risk of smoking, at least 95% less harmful, and of negligible risk to bystanders. Yet over half of smokers either falsely believe that vaping is as harmful as smoking or just don't know."

British Medical Association: "Significant numbers of smokers are using e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes), with many reporting that they are helpful in quitting or cutting down cigarette use."

US Centers for Disease Control: "E-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products."

British Columbia has some of the most restrictive vaping regulations in the country. These kind of restrictive public health policies are unreasonable and do nothing to improve the health of B.C. residents.

Now that you have a clear majority government, we are asking you to take another look at the restrictions you have placed on vaping. *We ask you to roll back the regulations particularly as they relate to plain packaging for vapour products, nicotine ceilings, flavour bans and the ban on no-nicotine products.*

We remain willing and available to discuss the positions of the vaping community in B.C. For many of us, vaping has saved our lives. Please do not push us back to smoking. We would appreciate a written response from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Chris Lalonde
Scientific Advisor

C/O Rights4Vapers
97 Walton Street
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 1N4
info@rights4vapers.com