

November 4, 2020

BY EMAIL: premier@gov.sk.ca, he.minister@gov.sk.ca

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Health, Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Moe and Mr. Reiter,

Firstly, congratulations on the Saskatchewan Party's recent electoral win.

We are Saskatchewan residents and voters. We are also vapers that have left behind smoking and are eager to help the thousands of adult smokers in Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan, 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."

Your government introduced vaping regulations this year aimed at curbing youth vaping. While we believe that young people should not vape, we are concerned that more restrictive regulations are around the corner.

We ask you to *commit to safeguarding the limited access to vapour products that we currently have*. We also request that you *should conclude from your current consultation that regulations banning flavours should not be enacted, at least until the federal government has a chance to deal with the issue (as they are currently planning to do)*.

We remain willing and available to discuss the positions of the vaping community in Saskatchewan. 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
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