

November 16, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email to Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Jones

RE: Bill 103, *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023*

The Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU), is writing in support of [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's letter dated September 7, 2023, and Public Health Niagara Region's letter dated October 30, 2023](#) regarding Bill 103, *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023*.

Bill 103's focus on preventing youth uptake of vaping is important to decrease morbidity and mortality and keep Ontarians out of the healthcare system now and in the future. This includes prohibiting the promotion of vapour products, raising the minimum age for purchasing vapour products, and requiring that specialty vape stores obtain store location approval from the local board of health.

Vaping rates among youth in Ontario continue to remain high with 26.4 % of students in grades 7-12 having tried vaping by e-cigarettes in their lifetime. Among those that had vaped in the last year, over 84% report vaping nicotine.

Vaping can impact the developing brain, increase risk of lung injury, and can impact other health issues like lung and cardiovascular disease. High nicotine concentrations, flavours, low cost, easy access, marketing strategies aimed at youth, and the lack of regulatory measures to protect youth are all factors that contribute to youth vaping. Long-term health risks of vaping are still largely unknown.

PROTECTION · PROMOTION · PREVENTION

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The proposed requirements of Bill 103 to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* would have a positive impact on the health of Ontarians, in particular for youth. Bill 103, if passed, would result in reducing the availability of vape devices and restrict vaping product advertising that has resulted in an increase in nicotine addiction and increasing present and future stress on the healthcare system. The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit would be happy to work with your government in supporting the changes proposed within Bill 103 as part of our comprehensive strategy to reduce youth vaping and decrease nicotine addiction.

Yours truly

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON,
KAWARTHA, PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

David Marshall
Chair, Board of Health
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Honourable David Piccini, MPP, Northumberland-Peterborough South
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies