



22 November 2013

Mr. Joe Mihevc  
Chair, Board of Health  
Toronto Public Health  
277 Victoria Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

Dear Joe:

As you may know, the provincial government introduced Bill 131, the Youth Smoking Prevention Act, on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Bill will ban all candy and fruit flavours in all tobacco products, will make hospitality patios 100% smoke-free (with the exception of the Canadian Legion), will make parks, playgrounds and hospital grounds smoke-free, will ban tobacco promotional items, and will prohibit tobacco sales on college and university campuses.

Taken together, we believe these measures will significantly reduce both the number of young people who currently smoke, and those who may be thinking of experimenting with tobacco products.

While we certainly welcome this legislation, the time to pass it is short: The Legislature's current session ends on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and it will not reconvene until February. A spring election is widely rumoured to be likely. Speedy passage of this legislation is therefore critical.

On behalf of the founding partners of the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco, I request that your Board of Health pass a resolution in support of speedy passage of this legislation and convey the resolution to the three party leaders and to MPPs who represent your area. I also hope that you can request public health staff in your jurisdiction to also encourage all parties to support passage of Bill 131 at the earliest opportunity.

I would be pleased to provide further information or answer any questions you may have about Bill 131.

Thank you very much for your attention to my request.

Yours very truly,

Michael Perley  
Director

cc: Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto

**Founding Agencies**  
Canadian Cancer Society  
Ontario Division  
Heart and Stroke  
Foundation of Ontario  
Non-Smokers'  
Rights Association  
Ontario Medical Association

**Supporting Agencies**  
Association of Local  
Public Health Agencies  
Cancer Care Ontario  
Ontario Association of  
Children's Aid Societies  
Ontario Association of  
Naturopathic Doctors  
Ontario Federation of Home  
and School Associations  
Ontario Physical and Health  
Education Association  
Ontario Public Health  
Association  
Physicians for a  
Smoke-Free Canada  
Registered Nurses  
Association of Ontario  
The Ontario College  
of Family Physicians

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