

MEMO

TO: Board of Health
FROM: Councillor Joe Mihevc
RE: Adopting and Resourcing a Comprehensive Federal Tobacco Control Strategy
DATE: April 16, 2018

Tobacco use, including smoking, remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Canada. Despite substantial declines in smoking, further reductions have stalled; people are still regularly exposed to second-hand smoke and some populations continue to smoke at high rates and need support to quit. ^[1] ^[2] ^[3] ^[4] It is therefore imperative that the comprehensive federal tobacco control strategy be appropriately resourced.

The Toronto Board of Health has recently supported and endorsed the [Renewal of the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy](#) and the [Renewal of the Smoke Free Ontario Strategy](#) both of which set an ambitious target of reducing smoking prevalence to 5% or lower by 2035.

The decline in tobacco use and exposure has been achieved and maintained through the combined efforts of the tobacco control community including Public Health Units, tobacco control researchers, advocacy groups and organizations that monitor, evaluate and support local and regional public health agencies. It is critical that this enabling system be sustained to ensure the new national tobacco control strategy is fully implemented and the ambitious federal goal of 5% smoking prevalence is achieved. The federal government can play a key role in this endeavour

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Health:

1. Request the Federal Minister of Health to make federal funding available through the new Federal Tobacco Control Strategy to support the ongoing work of the tobacco control community.



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Sincerely,

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[1] Ialomiteanu AR, Hamilton HA, Adlaf EM, Mann RE. (2016). CAMH Monitor -Report: Substance Use, Mental Health and Well-Being Among Ontario Adults, 1977–2015 (CAMH Research Document Series No. 45). Toronto, ON: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. URL:
www.camh.ca/en/research/news_and_publications/Pages/camh_monitor.aspx

[2] Clarke MP, Coughlin JR. Prevalence of Smoking Among the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQQ) Subpopulations in Toronto – The Toronto Rainbow Tobacco Survey (TRTS). *Can J Public Health* 2011;103(2):132-36.

[3] Torchalla I, Strehlau V, Okoli C, Li K, Schuetz C, Krausz M. Smoking and Predictors of Nicotine Dependence in a Homeless Population. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* 2011;13(10):934–942.

[4] Chen J, Nguyen A, Malesker M, Morrow L. High-Risk Smoking Behaviors and Barriers to Smoking Cessation Among Homeless Individuals. *Respir Care* 2016;61(5):640–645.