



Canadian  
Cancer  
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**BU16.2.57**  
CCS Pre-Budget  
Submission

# Canadian Cancer Society Pre-Budget Submission

Submission to the City of Toronto Budget Committee

January 2020



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## About Us

CCS is the only national charity that supports Canadians with all cancers in communities across the country. In 2018, we funded \$40.4 million in ground breaking research, invested \$52.6 million in trusted information and compassionate and practical support to people with cancer and their families, and advocated to governments for important social change. With almost 1 in 2 Ontarians expected to develop cancer in their lifetime, it is vital that we work together to strengthen our efforts to reduce the cancer burden in Ontario. CCS provides important services and supports to people with cancer and their families across all of Ontario including a Cancer Information Service based that answers phone calls and emails from nearly 20,000 Ontarians each year.

## **Recommendation: Tobacco and electronic cigarette business licensing fees should apply to all retailers selling these products in Toronto.**

### Tobacco and E-Cigarette Control and Smoking Cessation

Tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of cancer in Canada. Smoking is responsible for an estimated 30% of all cancer deaths in Canada.<sup>1</sup> Each year, cigarette smoking claims 16,000 lives in Ontario. Based on 2012 estimates, smoking costs Ontario \$2.26 billion each year in direct health care costs.<sup>2</sup>

Along with tobacco products, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use is a growing concern, especially among young people. Data from the *Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs Survey* indicates that youth vaping has doubled over a two year period and tripled over a four year period (2014-2019).<sup>3</sup> This rapid increase in youth vaping is creating a new generation of youth addicted to nicotine and is threatening the progress achieved over the years to reduce smoking.

The Canadian Cancer Society applauds the City of Toronto on becoming the third municipality in Ontario, after London and Hamilton, to introduce a business license for vaping product retailers. Furthermore, the City of Toronto is one of 20 municipalities in Ontario with a business license for tobacco retailers. We are grateful to the City of Toronto for showing this leadership.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee. Canadian Cancer Statistics 2019. Toronto, ON: Canadian Cancer Society; 2019. Available at: [cancer.ca/Canadian-Cancer-Statistics-2019-EN](http://cancer.ca/Canadian-Cancer-Statistics-2019-EN).

<sup>2</sup> Dobrescu, Alexandru, Abhi Bhandari, Greg Sutherland, and Thy Dinh. The Costs of Tobacco Use in Canada, 2012. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 153, Number 51: Vaping Products Promotion Regulations.



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However, Toronto is the only municipality where stores not specializing in tobacco or e-cigarettes, such as convenience stores, can get endorsements to sell these products at no additional cost. The social, environmental, health and administration costs to the City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health are fixed whether these products are sold in licenced specialty stores or confectionary stores with an endorsement to sell these products. As such, fees associated with selling tobacco products and e-cigarette products should be consistent among all retailers selling these products.

### Conclusion

A cigarette is a cigarette, and an e-cigarette is an e-cigarette, no matter from where it is sold. Given the additional costs to health and to society, the Canadian Cancer Society encourages the City of Toronto to charge vendors who choose to sell tobacco or e-cigarette products for their licenses, rather than the current endorsement system, in order to deliver appropriate cessation programming and enforcement measures at Toronto Public Health.

