



July 11, 2019

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Federal Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Adrian Dix
BC Minister of Health
PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor and Minister Adrian Dix,

Subject: E-cigarettes and Vapour Products

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution requesting support for firmer regulations on the sale to minors of e- cigarettes and vapour products.

That BCSTA urge the provincial and federal governments to support tougher regulations on the sale to minors of e-cigarettes and vapour products, for example as outlined in the proposed Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act 2019, including the banning of the sale of products which are marketed specifically to young people

Similar to the marketing of traditional cigarettes in the past, the creators, distributors and sellers of e-cigarettes and vaping devices are focusing hard on creating life-long customers by targeting young people. Flavours appealing to younger demographics, such as bubble gum, and devices designed for discreet use that emulate the look and feel of common items (lipstick, usb drives, etc.), further spur this appeal amongst young people. Stricter regulations must be put in place in order to protect vulnerable youth from being exposed to marketing campaigns related to these products. The Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act suggest that “restricting the sale of products to adult-only tobacco stores, vape stores and approved pharmacies; and enacting tougher penalties for non-compliance” could serve to keep these harmful products out of the hands of minors. Outside of the obvious negative effects associated with nicotine consumption, there are currently no regulations in place to identify the contents, type of chemicals and levels of said chemicals in these products, despite public opinion that vaping is safer than traditional smoking.

Thank you for considering the request outlined above. We look forward to any future dialogue on this important issue that you might consider. Your support in bringing the various provincial government ministries together in support of this important initiative is critical to any future success.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Higginson
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Enclosure: Original motion rationale (please note, final resolution was amended as presented in the letter)

L29. E-cigarettes and Vapour Products

Category:

Submitted for Consideration at: AGM 2019

Submitted by: SD 23 (Central Okanagan Public Schools)

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA urge the provincial and federal governments to support tougher regulations on the sale to minors of ecigarettes and vapour products, for example as outlined in the proposed *Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from ECigarettes (VAPE) Act 2019*, including the banning of the sale of products which are marketed specifically to young people.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA urge the provincial government to support tougher regulations on the sale to minors of e-cigarettes and vapour products, for example as outlined in the proposed *Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act, 2019*, including the banning of the sale of products which are marketed specifically to young people.

Rationale:

First reading of the private member's bill *Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act, 2019* (the "Bill") took place in the Legislature on April 11, 2019. The Legislative session is scheduled to end on May 30, 2019. The MLA who introduced the Bill described the Bill as follows:

This bill contains amendments to the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* which are focused on doing more to better keep these addictive vaping products out of the hands of our children. Specifically, these amendments include banning the sale of flavoured vapour products; limiting the supply and accessibility of e-cigarette products through stricter retail controls; restricting the sale of products to adult-only tobacco stores, vape stores and approved pharmacies; and enacting tougher penalties for non-compliance.

(*Hansard*, April 11, 2019 page 8375)

This motion is needed as vaping in schools has become a major issue, including a number of students experiencing severe reactions to the high levels of nicotine in the product. E-cigarettes and vapour products are marketed to young people by using flavours such as bubble gum and cotton candy, and vapour delivery systems which resemble lipsticks, pens, and computer external drives; all products which are commonly found and easily concealed in schools. There are no regulations in place to identify the contents, type of chemicals and levels of chemicals.

This motion should be accepted as a late motion because there appears to have been an increase in the use of these products, and this motion is timely as an MLA has introduced a private member's bill in the Legislature since the BCSTA motion deadline.

Reference(s):

- [Legislative Assembly of BC, Official Report of Debates \(Hansard\), Issue No. 238, Tuesday,](#)

[April 11, 2019 \(Morning Sitting\) page 8375](#)

(please see attached)

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.

BILL M210 — VULNERABLE ADOLESCENTS PROTECTION FROM E-CIGARETTES (VAPE) ACT, 2019

T. Stone presented a bill intituled Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act, 2019.

T. Stone: I move that the bill intituled the Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from E-Cigarettes (VAPE) Act, 2019, of which notice has been given in my name on the order paper, be introduced and now read for the first time. E-cigarette use, otherwise known as vaping, is quickly becoming an epidemic amongst the youth of British Columbia. A recent Canadian estimate suggests that a third of students in grades 10 through 12 are vaping, outpacing tobacco at an alarming rate. The U.S. Surgeon General recently declared e-cigarette use as a public health epidemic. These products are addictive, and they're deliberately made attractive to our youth.

But canvass most British Columbians, and it is clear that the dangers of vaping for our kids are not clearly understood. Many teenagers have shared stories with me about their friends who are addicted to vaping, about being fearful of encountering clouds of vapour in their school bathrooms, about their peers using Juuls or other discrete vape pods in class or vape pits adjacent to school property.

Simply put, this is not okay, and what is clear is that more needs to be done.

This bill contains amendments to the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act which are focused on doing more to better keep these addictive vaping products out of the hands of our children. Specifically, these amendments include banning the sale of flavoured vapour products; limiting the supply and accessibility of e-cigarette products through stricter retail controls; restricting the sale of products to adult-only tobacco stores, vape stores and approved pharmacies; and enacting tougher penalties for non-compliance.

Alongside these amendments, we also need to provide the resources required in every middle and high school across B.C. to implement evidence-based vaping awareness prevention and addiction support programs. Parents, teachers, administrators and all of us legislators must come together to better protect the health of our kids. It is my hope that amendments contained within this bill will help us work towards that objective.

Mr. Speaker: The question is first reading of the bill. Motion approved.

T. Stone: I move that the bill be placed on the orders of the day for second reading at the next sitting of the House after today.

Bill M210, Vulnerable Adolescents Protection from ECigarettes (VAPE) Act, 2019, introduced, read a first time and ordered to be placed on orders of the day for second reading at the next sitting of the House after today.

Statements (Standing Order 25B)

VAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS AND BAL AND SARJ SABHARWAL

S. Cadieux: For many thousands of years, spring has been a time when farmers have celebrated the coming of a new year. Since 1699, the Sikhs have had a further reason to celebrate this time of the year, as it has become a holy day to mark the birth of the Khalsa fraternity. Now, more than 300 years later, halfway around the world, Canadians of Indian descent carry on this tradition with much colour and enthusiasm and parades.

The Surrey Vaisakhi Parade has been held in the streets of my community for the past 17 years. The celebrations in Surrey will likely be the biggest in North America once again, the second-largest outside of India. You've seen the aerial



photos, and you'll certainly be hard-pressed to find any other event in the Lower Mainland that draws so many people.
[10:20 a.m.]

When up to 500,000 people converge on the streets of Newton this year to enjoy the festivities and the free food, that means thousands upon thousands of plates. Last year two brothers, Bal and Sarj Sabharwal, decided they would champion the greening of the Vaisakhi celebrations. They worked with the city and businesses to promote their vision for a foam-free Vaisakhi. Last year they estimate that over 130,000 plates were replaced with greener options. They'll continue their quest this year, hoping to continue to educate and raise awareness about the value of changing our habits.

These two are two of the most active volunteers in our community. They've been involved with the multicultural and environmental committees at the city. They are members of the Surrey Board of Trade and the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce. They were instrumental in the development of the hugely popular Fusion Festival, held annually, and they sponsor countless charitable events each and every year, including, most recently, the Coldest Night of the Year walk. They certainly exhibit the concept of *seva*, or selfless service, in the Sikh faith. It is, I think, most fitting to recognize them today in Volunteer Week, knowing how much time and love they'll be giving our community over the next few weeks with Vaisakhi celebrations. I've been privileged, as an elected official, to get to know them and to learn much about the Indian culture and people. I share in this celebration with my community and encourage everyone to celebrate the spirit of Vaisakhi this month.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS

A. Kang: Today is World Parkinson's Day. Many people don't understand the severity of Parkinson's disease. As well, Thursday, April 11, 2019 British Columbia Debates 8375