



September 25, 2019

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Via e-mail: Ginette.PetitpasTaylor@parl.gc.ca / Minister_Ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Petitpas Taylor,

I am writing today on behalf of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, which provides governance oversight to TransLink, the Metro Vancouver regional transit and transportation authority.

The Mayors' Council requests that Health Canada prohibits the advertising of vape products on public transit, similar to the restrictions on tobacco advertising. At present, the federal Tobacco and Vaping Products Act legislates how tobacco and vaping products can be advertised in Canada and distinguishes between "tobacco" and "vape" products. Without a change in federal legislation TransLink has limited ability to restrict advertising of "vape" products.

The risks of using vape products has been identified as potentially life-threatening, with higher incidence of illness, and very recently, fatalities, among the youth population. The Mayors' Council is increasingly concerned about the impact of vape advertisements on our region's youth, who are an important rider group on our transit system. We know that Health Canada is also concerned about the risks of vaping, as outlined on the Government of Canada website page, "Risks of Vaping." As we all learn more about the negative health impacts of using vape products, we know that as a governing body, we want to provide a healthy, supportive environment for our youth.

The Mayors' Council urgently requests that, given the serious health issues associated with vaping, Health Canada immediately amends vaping legislation to prohibit the advertising of vape products on all public transit vehicles and infrastructure, such as stations and shelters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan X. Coté".

Mayor Jonathan X. Coté
Chair

C. Members of the Mayors' Council
TransLink Board of Directors
Minister Selina Robinson, Minister Responsible for TransLink