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| **School-based Action** Ontario Ministry Of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTD) could support school boards in developing policies and/or guidelines on the use of e-cigarettes on school property | **Pros*** Several British Columbia school districts have recently banned the use of e-cigarettes on school property.
* E-cigarettes are included in the York Region District School Board (ON) and the York Catholic District School Board (ON)tobacco free policies prohibiting their use on school property.
* Public Health Units have reported to MOHLTC they are working with school boards to develop statements on e-cigarette use on school property.
* The ON Education Act (S. 302(1)) authorizes school boards to establish policies and guidelines with respect to the conduct of persons in schools within the board’s jurisdiction and the policies and guidelines must address such matters and include such requirements as the Minister may specify.
* Health Canada advises Canadians not to purchase or use electronic cigarettes as these products may pose health risks.

**Cons*** At this time, MOHLTC does not have conclusive evidence on whether e-cigarette use (with or without nicotine) results in negative health outcomes, leads young people to start using tobacco, or normalizes the use of tobacco.
* Action may prove premature should e-cigarettes be deemed not harmful to health.
* For consistent provincial coverage, a provincial policy recommendation generally has greater impact than individual action by schools or school boards.
* EDU has indicated school staff may not be receptive to taking on an enforcement role should e-cigarettes be prohibited from use on school grounds.
* School boards are limited to the current legislative context of the Education Act and the Smoke Free Ontario Act. Neither which specifically addresses the use, possession or sale of electronic tobacco products.
* Unless there is a legislative or regulatory provision that requires school boards to develop a policy and/or guideline to address the use of electronic tobacco products on school board property, implementation of a tobacco/smoke-free policy that includes reference to electronic tobacco products may be inconsistent across all 72 school boards.
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**E-Cigarettes: Two Discussions: September 2014 on use of e-cigarettes on school property; December 2014 on e-cigarettes policy in schools**

Jennifer Munro-Galloway (ON): September 24 2014 asked: Can I please get a quick show of hands as to which P/Ts have banned/limited/’made a statement about’ the use of e-cigarettes on school property?

**Compiled Results:**

# E-cigarettes Discussion Post

Commenced December 04 2014-12-08

Question from Charlotte Borg:

Have any of your jurisdictions developed policy around the use of e-cigarettes in schools or have your jurisdictions simply incorporated the use of e-cigarettes into your smoking policy? If you have a separate e-cigarettes policy, are you able to share it please?
Much appreciated,
Charlotte

**Answer:**

from Jennifer Munro-Galloway Dec 04 2014
Hi Charlotte,

Legislation was introduced in Ontario last week. <http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2014/11/ontario-takes-action-to-reduce-smoking-and-obesity-rates.html>

If passed, the proposed legislation would:

Ban the sale and supply of e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 19.
Prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in certain places where the smoking of tobacco is prohibited. (this includes schools)
Ban the sale of e-cigarettes in certain places where the sale of tobacco is prohibited. (this includes schools)
Prohibit the display and promotion of e-cigarettes in places where e-cigarettes or tobacco products are sold, or offered for sale.
Ban the sale of flavoured tobacco products, with a delayed implementation date for menthol-flavoured tobacco products.
Increase maximum fines for those who sell tobacco to youth, making Ontario's maximum fines the highest in Canada.
Strengthen enforcement to allow for testing of substances used in waterpipes (e.g. hookahs, shisha) in indoor public places.
If you have any questions, please let me know.
Thanks,
Jennifer

**Answer:**

From Nancy Boucher Dec 05 2014:
Hi Charlotte,
NB is incorporating this into our tobacco/smoke free policy. We should have it ready shortly.
Nancy

**Answer:**

From Trish Smillie Dec 05 2014
Yukon is incorporating e-cigarettes into the existing tobacco policy.
Thanks,
Trish Smillie

**Answer:**

From Imelda Arsenault Dec 05 2014:
As is PEI (see Yukon response: Trish Smillie)

**Answer:**

From Lauren Wallace Dec 05 2014:
Hi Charlotte,
All the best to you in your work with e-cigs. I have pasted below a few bullets summarizing BC's approach. In addition, Karen Parasram, our tobacco lead at Health, has pulled together a more comprehensive overview on this topic to support (see below) - thanks so much Karen!

• In BC, our Premier’s June 2014 Mandate Letter to the Minister of Health included the following accountability – “Work with the federal government to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes and flavoured tobacco to minors in British Columbia or in the absence of a federal strategy, move to introduce legislation”. MoH is exploring the legislation side of things from a provincial level and BC is advocating for federal government to take action with regard to this issue.
• Our Ministry is supportive of school districts implementing their own policies around e-cigarettes, as legislation takes time to come to fruition. Many school districts are creating these policies, often with support from their health authorities; Medical Health Officers from each of the HAs have sent letters out to their school districts over the past year, encouraging them to create policies that prohibit the use of e-cigarettes on school grounds.
• In addition, MoH is refreshing the provincial tobacco control strategy, and will be looking at how to integrate e-cigarettes into that new framework.
Thanks so much
Lauren

**Answer:**

From Kaley Pacak Dec 05 2014:
There is no policy at this time in Manitoba, however there is a document that will be released to the public in a few weeks (not yet approved by the Minister) which is essentially a position statement. It includes Health Canada’s advice and there are recommendations from our Chief Public Health Officer. When approved it will be posted online and I can share it if interested.
Thanks,
Kaley

**Answer:**

From Mark Jones Dec 08 2014:

NL does not currently address e-cigarettes in its existing legislation.

Options are being actively explored.

**Answer:**

From Corinne Parker Dec 09 2014:

Alberta recently introduced the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act*; however, the legislation does not address e-cigarettes at this time. The new legislation has provisions to restrict the use of tobacco-like products, but those sections have not been proclaimed and a proclamation date has not been announced. The Government of Alberta will clarify if and how it intends to regulate tobacco-like products in the future.

At the municipal level, the City of Red Deer has a bylaw in place which prohibits the smoking of e-cigarettes in the same areas where the smoking of cigarettes are prohibited.

Also, e-cigarettes cannot be used indoors at Alberta Health Services (Alberta’s health authority) sites until more information about their safety becomes available.

Several schools in Alberta have policies to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes. In addition, some workplaces in Alberta have also developed policies to restrict e-cigarette use.

I hope this is helpful

Corinne

**Answer:**

From Meghan Day, December 17 2014:

Apologies for the delayed response. See below BC’s current action around e-cigarettes.

* BC has a comprehensive strategy in place that includes programs to help prevent the uptake of tobacco by youth, help people quit using tobacco and legislation to protect the public from the dangers of second hand smoke. The current Tobacco Control Strategy is being refreshed; e-cigarettes are under review for inclusion in the Strategy.
* On June 10, 2014 BC, Honourable Minister Lake’s mandate letter stated:

"Your mandate for the following year is as follows:
[...]

12. Work with the federal government to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes and flavoured tobacco to minors in British Columbia, or in the absence of a federal strategy, move to introduce legislation."

BC is beginning to review its existing legislation to act upon the minister’s mandate letter with respect to e-cigarettes.

* BC advocated the federal government to begin action on e-cigarettes and is pleased to see that the federal government has held consultations around e-cigarettes.