



March 1, 2017

DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL

Scott Wilson
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Wellington
74 Woolwich Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3T9

Sonya Pritchard
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Dufferin
55 Zina Street
Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5

Derrick Thomson
Chief Administrative Officer
Guelph City Hall/City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mr. Wilson, Ms. Pritchard + Mr. Thomson:

Re: Regulation & Restriction of Local Hookah Establishments

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is reaching out to your municipality to regulate and restrict hookah establishments from setting up in your area. Now is the time to take action out of concern for the health and safety of your constituents. Twenty municipalities in Ontario have already done so including; Ottawa, Toronto and Peterborough.

A hookah or a waterpipe is used to smoke flavoured tobacco as well as non-tobacco herbal shisha. A recent review on the toxicity, physical properties and disease risks of hookah waterpipe smoke, found that smoking “herbal” shisha likely presents the same disease risks as tobacco shisha.

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- All tobacco and herbal waterpipe smoke contains toxicants, including carbon monoxide, ‘tar’, polycyclic hydrocarbons, and volatile aldehydes;
- Toxicants measured in herbal smoke equal or exceed those found in tobacco waterpipe smoke;
- Waterpipe smokers inhale and absorb the same toxicants that are known to cause cancer, heart and lung disease, and dependence in cigarette smokers.

Currently, non-tobacco or herbal shisha hookah smoking is not regulated under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)*. The *SFOA* specifically prohibits “smoking or holding of lighted tobacco” in any enclosed public place or enclosed workplace. Many hookah proprietors claim that their shisha is “herbal” and is heated, not lit, so the *SFOA* does not apply to them.

I hope that you will consider taking this important step to protect the health of residents before hookah establishments become established in your municipality. WDGPH can provide research and examples of policies from other jurisdictions.

If you should have any questions or for further information, please contact Laura Campbell, Health Promotion Specialist, at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4208.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicola Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and CEO

Andy Goldie, CAO, Township of Centre Wellington – via e-mail
Derek McCaughan, Interim CAO, Town Erin – via e-mail
Bill White, CAO, Town of Minto – via e-mail
Ian Roger, CAO, Guelph-Eramosa – via e-mail
Brad McRoberts, CAO, Mapleton – via e-mail
Karen Landry – CAO, Township of Puslinch - via e-mail
Michael Givens, CAO, Wellington North – via e-mail
Ed Brennan, CAO, Town of Orangeville – via e-mail
John Tefler, CAO, Town of Sheburne – via e-mail
Mark Early, CAO, Town of Mono – via e-mail
Susan Stone, CAO, Township of Amaranth/East Garafraxa – via e-mail
Jane Wilson, CAO, Township of East Luther/Grand Valley – via e-mail
Terry Horner, CAO, Township of Mulmur – via e-mail
Denise Holmes, CAO, Township of Melancthon – via e-mail