

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 9, 2014

RE: **Proposed amendments to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act***

On November 13, 2013, the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care introduced plans to amend the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* and its regulation to further protect youth from the harmful effects of tobacco.

Proposed changes to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* announced by the provincial government include:

- Increasing fines for those who sell tobacco to youth
- Prohibiting the sale of flavoured tobacco products to help prevent children from starting to smoke
- Strengthening enforcement authority of *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* inspectors
- Prohibiting the offering of promotional items with the sale of tobacco

Additionally, proposed provincial amendments to the Regulation made under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* will deal with:

- Prohibiting smoking on playgrounds, sport fields, and on restaurant and bar patios
- Further restricting smoking on outdoor grounds of hospitals and on specified provincial government properties
- Prohibiting tobacco sales on postsecondary education campuses and specified provincial government properties
- Prohibiting tobacco sales in schools and day nurseries

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care suggests that the proposed amendments, if passed, would come into force on July 1, 2014, except for the prohibition on smoking tobacco on patios, which would come into force on January 1, 2015.

Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health