

McDonald, David S

From: Bonnie MacDonald <v-2bomac@hotmail.com>
Sent: November-03-14 1:07 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Regarding appointment to speak at 2:30 on Bill 60

I'm unable to speak at 2:30 due to medical issues but would appreciate my speech being entered for consideration.
Thank you.

Good Afternoon ,Madame Chair, committee members ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Bonnie MacDonald and I am the manager and sales associate at The End Vapor Shop in New Glasgow and I oppose Bill 60 for several reasons.

With regard to the Smoke Free Places Act, I take issue with the health ministers changing of the universally accepted dictionary definition of smoke and tobacco to amend an existing act to include a product that neither produces smoke or is anyway associated with tobacco. I believe it is the duty of our legislature to create an Electronic Cigarette Act specifically for electronic cigarettes and its associated products that would restrict sales much like the Liquor Act with regard to age and public use.

With regard to amending the Tobacco access act to include flavored juices that contain No Tobacco and all other products associated with electronic cigarettes would result in the closure of a dozen shops and the return of thousands of vapors to traditional smoking. Flavored tobacco and tobacco flavoring are 2 entirely different things.

Under Mr. Glavine's rationale one should expect when opening a bag of dill pickle chips that we will be pulling out a handful of dill pickles instead of flavored chips.

My job as a sales associate is to educate our new and existing customers by visual and hands on use of the product. . I always confirm they are currently a smoker.

This product is not intended for non smokers. I take issue with people that would take this up that don't smoke. Of the thousands of customers I have assisted with switching in the past 12 months only 2 were non smokers. After educating them on what vaping is and why people do it they left without any product. The key word here being educated.

With regard to the information introduced pertaining to youth surveys commissioned by Health Canada and conducted by The University of Waterloo, I am at a loss.

The results of those surveys were published on June 3 2014 on both the Health Canada and U of Waterloo websites not in September has stated . Those results have now been reinterpreted and updated as a 2014 report which I find very suspect given the timing of this new information.

Please note the survey question is - Any flavoured tobacco products, includes menthol cigarette, flavoured little cigar or cigarillo, flavoured cigar, and flavoured tobacco in a water-pipe.
Nothing at all associated with flavored e juice. If you want accurate data ask accurate questions!

Professor Steve Manske of the University is quoted in an article published June 4, 2014 and titled National survey shows youth smoking down, . "We can celebrate the continued slow decline in cigarette use. This was based on 2012-13 survey results. which shows 5% of the 4019 NS youths from grade 7 thru 12 currently smoke and that 50 % of those students have tried flavored tobacco in the past 30 days. It also shows 76% have never tried to smoke not even a puff. Which is quite wonderful. However 3 months later on September 10 ,he has published a new interpretation's of the 2012-13 survey labelled 2014 results that say 50% of Nova scotia's youths have smoked flavored tobaccos. Which is accurate but out of context because it does not state that it is actually 50 % of the % 5 that answered yes to question 7 as being smokers which is approximately 100 students and not the thousands implied in last weeks meetings.

Kelly Cull of CCS is quoted as saying, Research shows that menthol increases smoking initiation among youth and makes it harder for smokers to quit. It masks the harshness of tobacco smoke, enables deeper inhalation and increases nicotine absorption," says Cull. "Menthol is the most popular flavor among youth. It is essential that a ban on menthol cigarettes be included as part of any ban on flavored tobacco."

Meanwhile the Act Mr. Glavine wants amended has an Exemption clause for menthol cigarettes. I know the menthol question was asked at the second reading by an MLA but I think the committee and all Nova Scotians deserve a more detailed reason why this is exempted given the seriousness of Ms.Culls research information. .

In my opinion and after many hours of research I believe that these amendment's are nothing more then a move to increase lost revenue. If they are passed without change they will result in long time vapors going back to cigarettes. If we cant get the flavored ejuices that we love and that are keeping us from smoking the majority will smoke again.If you've never been dependent on tobacco you should not be to quick to say that statement is incorrect.

Then there is plan B

If our products are labelled a tobacco product eventually it will be treated as such and require licensing and additional taxes has clause 5 would leave us open to future taxes, regulations etc.

I have provided links to the members if they so choose to follow up on some of the points I have raised I thank you all for your time today.

Links to Information used in Bonnie MacDonalds Address:

Kelly Cull online statement for Canadian Cancer Society.

<http://www.cancer.ca/en/about-us/for-media/media-releases/nova-scotia/2014/take-action-against-flavoured-tobacco-products/?region=ns>

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Watterloo News Link for :National survey shows youth smoking down published June 4.2014

<https://uwaterloo.ca/news/news/expert-national-survey-shows-youth-smoking-down-still>

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Youth Smoking Survey National 2012-13

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/ survey-sondage 2012-2013/table-eng.php>

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<https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/sites/ca.canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/files/uploads/files/yss12 ns provincial profile draft printable en 20140603.pdf>