



January 24, 2021

Langley City Council
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor Val and Council Members;

I am writing on behalf of [Action on Smoking & Health \(ASH Canada\)](#), which is one of Canada's leading tobacco control organizations. In collaboration with our health partners, we are working with municipalities, health authorities, post-secondary schools and school districts across British Columbia and Western Canada to address youth vaping and the potential renormalization of smoking.

ASH recently had the pleasure of meeting with the City of Langley Manager of Community Safety to discuss the current smoking regulation bylaws in Langley. We also discussed best practices currently adopted by other municipalities in the region and implementing further restrictions on the public consumption of tobacco and vaping products.

Tobacco is the number one cause of premature disease and death in British Columbia and across Canada. Each year, **6,000 B.C. residents** die from illnesses caused by tobacco use. It has taken decades of hard work by governments and health organizations to protect the Canadian population from tobacco use and nicotine addiction, and this struggle continues today.

Youth vaping rates are skyrocketing, and urgent action is needed to reverse this trend. The **2018-19 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey** revealed that **e-cigarette prevalence rates doubled** among students since the previous survey conducted in 2016-17 (CSTADS, 2019). This is not surprising given the aggressive industry marketing targeting adolescents. The increasing public visibility of smoking behavior may renormalize smoking in public and further restrictions are needed. Youth deserve first-class protection from smoking and vaping. With the legalization of cannabis in Canada and the emergence of the vaping epidemic among Canada's youth, it is more important now than ever to revisit your tobacco vaping and cannabis bylaws and policies.

A **gold-standard smoking bylaw** would align restrictions on all forms of smoking and vaping (e.g. tobacco, nicotine, cannabis, hookah); ban smoking in all outdoor parks and recreation spaces (e.g. parks, recreations areas, public events and markets, playgrounds, sports fields, beaches, trails, transit stops and shelters); and establish setback distances from patios, doors, windows and air intakes. Several municipalities in the Metro Vancouver Regional District have been leaders with comprehensive restrictions on smoking and vaping in public places ([North Vancouver](#), [Pitt Meadows](#), [Vancouver](#) and [Port Coquitlam](#)), including outdoor parks and public events.

The City of Langley should consider the following provisions to **Smoking Regulation Bylaw No. 2792**:

- Section 2.15: Adding water pipes and hookahs to the "smoke" and "smoking" definitions
- Section 4.1: Adding beaches, outdoor markets, and outdoor events to the list of public spaces where smoking is banned
- Section 5.1: Increasing the minimum smoking distances



The City of Langley should also consider the following provision to the **Parks and Public Facilities Regulation Bylaw No. 3048**:

- Expand the “park” definition to include any public recreation space controlled by the Municipality to be used for rest, recreation, exercise, pleasure, amusement and enjoyment, and includes municipal trails.

Further considerations for City Council may include removing all designated Smoking Areas, making hotel and motel rooms smoke-free, and banning smoking in all group living facilities and public housing.

ASH is collaborating with **Fraser Health Authority** to encourage regional municipalities to enhance their smoking and vaping bylaws (see attached for the **ASH model municipal bylaw**), and we are very willing to work with you on revisions to your bylaw to ensure that all public places frequented by children and youth are completely smoke and vape-free.

We **request to make a presentation to your Council** about the need for a more comprehensive smoking and vaping bylaw in the City of Langley. Please feel free to contact me to make the arrangements.

We look forward to working with you on this important public health issue.

Thank you,

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