



June 12, 2018

Mr. Rob Maisonville, CAO
Corporation of the County of Essex
360 Fairview Ave., W.
Essex, Ont. N8M 1Y6

Dear Mr. Maisonville:

SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ACT, 2017

Effective July 1, 2018, the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFAO, 2017)* will become law, repealing the existing *Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA)* and *Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015*. This new act will regulate the sale, supply, use, display, and promotion of tobacco and vapour products (e-cigarettes), and the smoking and vaping of medical cannabis. In future, additional substances may also be subject to the *SFOA, 2017* regulation.

The *SFOA, 2017* prohibits the smoking of tobacco, the use of e-cigarettes to vape any substance, and the smoking and vaping of medical cannabis in all enclosed public spaces and enclosed workplaces. The *SFOA, 2017* also includes other locations where smoking of tobacco was previously prohibited under the *SFOA*, such as child care centres and playgrounds.

In addition to a number of spaces prescribed under previous legislation, as those noted above, new prohibitions for the use of these products as defined in the *SFOA, 2017* include:

- Smoking or vaping on **school property** and within 20m of the perimeter of school grounds
- Smoking or vaping on all **bar and restaurant patios** and within 9m of their perimeter
- Smoking or vaping on **recreation facility** property and within a 20m perimeter of their grounds

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) is working with community stakeholders by contacting all municipalities to discuss these changes, the implications for municipal properties, effects on special events, fairs, and festivals, and how local smoke-free bylaws are impacted.

The WECHU's Tobacco Enforcement Officers, are designated to enforce the *SFOA, 2017* and will continue to work with owners, operators, and proprietors of properties to ensure compliance with provincial requirements. With ongoing communication, collaboration, and a commitment to due diligence, we are confident that compliance can be achieved and maintained.

We look forward to working together to support the continued efforts to protect all Windsor-Essex County residents from tobacco and other smoking related harms. For additional information, please contact Eric Nadalin, Manager of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at 519-258-2146 ext. 3115 or enadalin@wechu.org.

Sincerely,



Theresa Marentette
Acting CEO