



January 20, 2020

To Mayor and Council, Langley City and Township of Langley:

As you are likely aware, communities across Canada are finding themselves unexpectedly struggling with an increasingly concerning situation, as vaping use becomes an epidemic among our youth.

At the October 17th 2019 Langley District Parent Advisory Council General Meeting, our membership (consisting of 45 parent representatives from each of our elementary, middle and high schools) directed the DPAC Executive to write a letter urging both our Langley local governments to take action on the growing concern around our children's access to vaping and e-cigarettes materials and paraphernalia. Parents are calling for immediate action from our local government(s) to address this epidemic.

Recent Canadian estimates suggest that a third of students in grades 10 through 12 are vaping, outpacing tobacco use at an alarming rate. Langley DPAC is pleased to see the Provincial Government take action by placing restrictions on access, flavouring, nicotine content, packaging and advertising in an effort to protect youth from the risks associated with vaping use.

Studies show that the number of youth who are regularly engaging in vaping is alarming as is the recent health based evidence linking vaping to several dangerous and acute health impacts (including potentially fatal conditions). As a result of this, many municipalities are starting to take aggressive measures to halt youth vaping.

We strongly encourage our local government(s) to take an equally strong stance by changing bylaws to ensure that businesses within a 2 kilometre radius of a school are restricted from selling vape products. We are well aware that vape products in general are restricted to youth under the age of 19, however, the proximity of some stores to schools and the lack of proper enforcement efforts means youth manage to purchase products, regardless and are exposed to intense marketing efforts designed specifically to entice youth into purchasing and experimenting with these addictive and potentially dangerous products.

With respect, the parents of the Langley community are calling on our elected officials to take measures to protect the health and wellness of our youth.

If you require more information please don't hesitate to contact me directly at president@langleydpac.ca or at 604.617.5140.

Sincerely,

Alicia Rempel
President/Chair
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