



Ottawa Council on
Smoking or Health

Conseil d'Ottawa sur le
tabagisme ou la santé

May 13, 2016

The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Manager, Regulations Division, Tobacco Products Regulatory Office, Tobacco Control Directorate,
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada
Email: hc.pregs.sc@canada.ca

Re: Proposed Menthol Ban under the *Tobacco Act*

Dear Honourable Minister Philpott:

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) is writing in support of the proposed ban on menthol flavor under the *Tobacco Act*.

A menthol ban is necessary—and long overdue—in order to protect Canadians of all ages from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry. It is especially important to reduce the high rates of menthol flavoured tobacco smoking among Canadian youth.

The OCSH fully supports a menthol ban for cigarettes and blunt wraps, and cigars weighing less than 6 grams.

However, we strongly urge the federal government to extend the proposed ban to **all tobacco products**, including: all cigars (and not just those weighing less than 6 grams), roll-your-own tobacco, cigarette papers, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, water pipe tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

We commend the federal government for moving forward on a federal menthol ban. Tobacco use remains the leading cause of disease, disability, and death in Canada, costing provincial health care systems billions of dollars every year. The federal government can and must do more to protect Canadians from tobacco addiction.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol McDonald
President
Email: info@smokefreeottawa.com
www.smokefreeottawa.com

/CBG