



## **OCSH Urges the City of Ottawa to Follow Toronto's Lead and Ban Hookah Smoking Inside Public Places and Workplaces**

**Ottawa (November 5, 2015)** - The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) congratulates the City of Toronto for banning hookah smoking inside city-licensed businesses<sup>1</sup> and urges the City of Ottawa to follow Toronto's lead without delay.

"The City of Ottawa took a small step by banning hookah smoking on outdoor municipal property in 2012<sup>2</sup>, but more needs to be done to prevent youth from becoming addicted to hookah products and to protect hospitality workers," says Carol McDonald, president of the OCSH. "There are no legal or scientific reasons preventing Ottawa from including hookah smoking in the indoor smoke-free bylaws."

Approximately 14% of Canadian youth between grades 9-12 have tried hookah smoking.<sup>3</sup> A recent scientific study found that "Staff and patrons of waterpipe cafes are exposed to air quality levels considered hazardous to human health. Results support eliminating waterpipe smoking in hospitality venues indoors and out."<sup>4</sup>

British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Québec have adopted provincial bans. Other municipalities across Ontario, including Barrie, Peterborough, and Orillia, have also adopted bans.

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### **REFERENCES**

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<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Pagliaro, "Toronto council bans hookah smoking in city businesses," The Toronto Star. November 4, 2015. [http://www.thestar.com/news/city\\_hall/2015/11/04/toronto-council-bans-hookah-smoking-in-city-businesses.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2015/11/04/toronto-council-bans-hookah-smoking-in-city-businesses.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ottawa City Council. Minutes. June 27, 2012.

<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2012/06-27/englishminutes37.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Minaker LM, Shuh A, Burkhalter RJ, Manske SR. Hookah use prevalence, predictors, and perceptions among Canadian youth: findings from the 2012/2013 Youth Smoking Survey. *Cancer Causes Control*. June 2015; Vol 26, Issue 6; 831–838. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10552-015-0556-x>

<sup>4</sup> Zhang B, Haji F, Kaufman P, Muir S, Ferrence R. 'Enter at your own risk': a multimethod study of air quality and biological measures in Canadian waterpipe cafes. *Tobacco Control*. October 25, 2015. <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2013/10/25/tobaccocontrol-2013-051180.abstract>