

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Minister

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et des Soins de longue durée

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HTLC2966MC-2015-3743

**MAY 14 2015**

Ms. Carol McDonald  
Ms. Carmela Graziani  
info@smokefreeottawa.com

Dear Ms. McDonald and Ms. Graziani:

Thank you for your letter sharing your support for Bill 45, the *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014*.

I am always pleased to hear from our health care partners, like the Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health, who share our commitment to doing what we can to protect Ontarians, particularly our youth and children, from tobacco. Your support is very important to me and our government.

As you know, if passed, Bill 45 would amend the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* to ban the sale of flavoured tobacco products, including menthol-flavoured tobacco products, and regulate the sale, display, promotion and safe use of e-cigarettes. These measures will protect youth from the dangers of tobacco and support our vision for a smoke-free Ontario.

We remain committed to preventing young people from using all tobacco products and we recognize that flavoured tobacco products are one of the few remaining ways that tobacco companies have of marketing to our children and we have a responsibility to act.

I have noted your comments and shared a copy of your letter with staff in the ministry's Health Promotion Division for their information and consideration.

As we move forward on tobacco issues, I look forward to your continued feedback in the months and years ahead.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dipika Damerla', written over a horizontal line.

Dipika Damerla  
Associate Minister

c: France Gélinas, MPP