

## RESOLUTION 2014.02 FLAVOURED TOBACCO PRODUCTS BAN

*Submitted by: Edmonton Diocesan Council*

**Whereas,** Tobacco, and therefore flavoured tobacco products, are addictive and dangerous to health; and

**Whereas,** Bill 206 Tobacco Reduction (Flavoured Tobacco Products) Amendment Act 2013, when proclaimed, will ban the *sale* of flavoured tobacco products to children and youth in Alberta; and

**Whereas,** Banning *production and import* of flavoured tobacco products would moderate the resources needed to control these hazardous products, reduce the costs of police intervention and court time to enforce legislation, and eliminate the associated health care costs; therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention assembled, urge the federal government, through the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, to ban the production and import of flavoured tobacco products; and, be it further

**Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded to the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada at the 94<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention.

## **BRIEF:**

Tobacco and tobacco products have long been known to be addictive and dangerous to human health.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, new tobacco products are being manufactured – characterized as “flavoured tobacco products.” These are still tobacco, masked in new forms that mimic fruit and candy and that are attractive to younger consumers (i.e. our children and grandchildren. Cigarillos, chewing tobacco (“spit” or “smokeless” tobacco), and water pipe tobacco (sheesha) are now available in flavours of chocolate, strawberry, vanilla, mint, cherry, apple, peach, grape, menthol, etc., specifically to target the young demographic.<sup>4</sup> These addictive candy-like products are now expanded to include twist sticks, dissolvable strips and lozenges that can contain three times as much nicotine as a cigarette .<sup>6</sup>

The Canadian Cancer Society reports that, “[since] the introduction of fruit-flavoured and candy-flavoured cigarillos, there has been a significant increase in the number of youth trying these and other flavoured products.” Flavoured cigarillos are being sold individually, wrapped to resemble lip gloss or marker pens, for a loonie or a toonie at convenience stores, attracting young people and making it easy to purchase them.<sup>2</sup> A national Youth Smoking Survey<sup>11</sup> found that of youth tobacco users in B.C., over half used flavoured products.

In Alberta and some other provinces, legislation has been adopted to prevent the sale of flavoured tobacco products to youth.<sup>5</sup> Citizens in other provinces (e.g. B.C., Saskatchewan, Ontario) are encouraging their provincial legislatures to implement similar controls.<sup>4,6,8,9</sup> Currently (Dec2013), federal legislation only bans flavours, not including menthol, in cigarettes, little cigars and blunt wraps – smokeless tobacco products are still exempted federally.<sup>7</sup> A beneficial next-step would be for the federal government to expand the law to ban the production and import of flavoured tobacco products to reduce the use nation-wide. Such legislation should be even broader than the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in the United States<sup>10</sup>, which bans the making, shipping and selling of certain flavoured cigarettes (only).

The Canadian Medical Association has been lobbying for the federal government to enact legislation banning child-friendly flavouring in tobacco products since at least 2008. CMA cited the addictive nature of tobacco and its health hazards in its advocacy campaign.<sup>3</sup> By extension, banning the production and import of such products federally would reduce provincial health care resources and law enforcement resources, which are otherwise needed to monitor and enforce legislation that simply regulates the sale of these products.

As the availability of flavoured tobacco products is becoming more widespread, it is important for the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to raise their voices to protect children, youth and adults from addiction to tobacco and flavoured tobacco products by urging the Government of Canada to enact legislation banning the production and import of such products.

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## **ACTION PLAN:**

1. Encourage CWL members and councils to contact ministers and MPs and to write letters urging the federal government to ban the production and import of flavoured tobacco products.
2. Encourage CWL members to contact provincial and territorial legislators and to write letters urging those provincial/territorial governments that have not yet done so, to regulate the

availability and sale, especially to youth, of flavoured tobacco products in their province/territory.

3. Recommend that CWL councils invite speakers to address concerns about flavoured tobacco products from the perspective of health, law enforcement, and legislation.

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