

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

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Ms. Nancy Sullivan, Chair  
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health  
160 Chancellors Way  
Guelph ON N1G 0E1

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the passing of Bill 178, the *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016* (SFOAA), and for sharing your recommendation to regulate herbal shisha under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA). I apologize for the delay of this response.

Currently, our government does not regulate herbal shisha under the SFOA. However, we have improved enforcement to address the indoor use of tobacco in water pipes, through amendments to the SFOA which came into force January 1, 2016. These amendments enable inspectors to take and test samples of shisha for tobacco content, which helps them to assess compliance with the SFOA.

My ministry continues to review the research, trends, and emerging evidence on the use and health effects of herbal shisha to inform our government's policy decisions going forward.

Again, thank you for writing to me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

c: Liz Sandals, MPP  
Ted Arnott, MPP  
Sylvia Jones, MPP  
Randy Pettapiece, MPP