

**aIPHa RESOLUTION A10-8**

**TITLE:           Contraband Tobacco**

**SPONSOR:   Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District (HKPRD) Board of Health**

WHEREAS       53% of high school students in Ontario who smoke, report using contraband tobacco; and

WHEREAS       a 10% increase in the price of cigarettes results in a 4.5 % decrease in tobacco consumption in the general population; and

WHEREAS       tobacco taxes are a powerful tool to protect youth from tobacco use since a similar price increase leads to a 12% decrease in consumption; and

WHEREAS       contraband tobacco is approximately one quarter of the price of legitimate tobacco; and

WHEREAS       contraband tobacco can be obtained without proof of age of majority and without proper labeling; and

WHEREAS       the HKPRD Board of Health commends the provincial government on its recent establishment of the Contraband Free Ontario Office, and its youth engagement initiatives related to tobacco use reduction; and

WHEREAS       the HKPRD Board of Health **encourages** the provincial government to: participate in the reduction of contraband tobacco sales; support all Ontario municipal police forces in enforcement of contraband control; revoke manufacturer licenses if a manufacturer is operating illegally; support contraband tobacco control measures that do not negatively impact on current public health programs on cessation, education and enforcement, such as increasing tobacco taxes; and work closely with the federal government in support of its recently announced tobacco control initiatives; and

WHEREAS       initiatives to control the availability of contraband tobacco are largely the purview of the federal government;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies commends the federal government on its recent initiatives to control contraband tobacco via the interministerial Contraband Enforcement Strategy and calls upon the federal government to enhance its efforts to control the manufacture and sale of contraband tobacco by:

- Increasing the cost of tobacco manufacturing licenses and licensing bonds to ensure tobacco manufacturers comply with provincial and federal legislation,

- Introducing tracking and tracing systems for all manufactured tobacco products to allow effective monitoring of a product's distribution chain and any diversions. (This would also facilitate identification of illicit products and make it more difficult to manufacture illicit cigarettes),
- Imposing strict controls on the supply of materials to unlicensed tobacco manufacturers,
- Sustaining efforts to control legitimate tobacco products through increasing taxes, restricting promotion,
- Ensuring the success of the above measures by committing sufficient resources to their enforcement, using strong enforcement and deterrent penalties,
- Monitoring the use of contraband tobacco, making results public, and providing education;

**AND FURTHER** that the Prime Minister of Canada, and the federal Ministers of Health, Finance, National Revenue, Public Safety, State (Agriculture), and Indian Affairs and Northern Development as well as Canada Border Services Agency and Public Prosecution Services of Canada are so advised.

**ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:**

**Resolution CARRIED**