



Bill 41: Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act

FAQs

The *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on February 27, 2019. After 1st and 2nd reading the Bill will be examined by the Standing Committee on Social Development.

What does the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* Bill intend to do?

The proposed *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* Bill intends to modernize the current legislation by responding to recent changes to the federal *Tobacco Act* (Canada) and align the NWT with increasing tobacco and vapour product control measures taking place in other province and territories.

This modernized legislation aims to address public health concerns around the increasing number of tobacco and tobacco related products such as electronic cigarettes. The Bill proposes to regulate tobacco products, vapour products and accessories, and restrict access to these items. Restricting access to these items will assist in our efforts to deter uptake, encourage cessation, and reduce the normalization of smoking.

What will happen to the current *Tobacco Control Act*?

A new *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* would repeal the existing *Tobacco Control Act*, and replace it with legislation that would regulate tobacco products, vapour products and accessories, and restrict access to these items.

What will be different from the current *Tobacco Control Act*?

The Bill proposes changes to better align the NWT with increasing tobacco and vapour product control measures taking place in other provinces and territories.

The proposed Bill would:

- Regulate the sale, display and advertising of vapour products such as electronic cigarettes and the substances used within electronic cigarettes
- Regulate the sale, display and advertising of accessories such as rolling papers and pipes
- Increase the legal age at which tobacco may be purchased from 18 to 19
- Increase the age at which a retailer must ask for proof of age from individuals that appear to be under the age of 18 to under the age of 25
- Prohibit the sale of food products and confectionary products that are designed to resemble tobacco products or vapour products
- Prohibit the sale of tobacco products, vapour products and accessories at certain locations including but not limited to schools, hospitals, pools and recreational facilities

What is considered an accessory?

An accessory is something designed to be used in association with smoking or in association with the consumption of a tobacco product. These items include items such as rolling papers, filters, water pipes and storage containers but do not include lighters or matches.

Why are you increasing the legal age to purchase tobacco?

Increasing the age at which tobacco may be legally purchased is intended to reduce youth uptake and rates of initiation, thereby reducing chances of addiction.

Increasing the age would also result in a consistent framework for regulated substances in the NWT, including cannabis and alcohol.

What will the legal age signs at stores say and who will post them?

Retailers of tobacco products, vapour products and accessories would be required to post signs respecting the legal age to purchase these products.

The Department would provide these signs to retail stores to post. Stores would be required to post signs in accordance with the Regulations.

Will there be regulations under the Act?

Yes, the Department is currently developing the regulations that would include details about:

- Inspectors appointed in the Act,
- Forms of identification for acceptance of proof of age; and,
- Sign requirements

Who will enforce this Act?

The inspectors would be named in the Regulations. The primary inspectors that would be designated to enforce the provisions of this Act would be the Environmental Health Officers within the Department of Health and Social Services, who are also designated as inspectors under the existing *Tobacco Control Act*, *Cannabis Smoking Control Act* and *Public Health Act*.

How do I share my feedback on the proposed legislation?

The Standing Committee on Social Development will now examine the Bill in detail. The Committee has the opportunity to engage the public and recommend amendments as part of their review. There will be opportunities to comment on this Bill as part of this process.

When will the legislation come into force?

Before the legislation comes into force, the Standing Committee must complete their review, and the Department must finalize the required regulations, provide training and develop signs. The Department will ensure the public and stakeholders are made aware of when the legislation is coming into force.