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Letter to the editor

RE: CIGARILLOS AND YOUTH DON'T MIX

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association, which make up the Clean Air Coalition of BC, support MLA Adrian Dix's proposed Private Members' Bill to ban cigarillos from being sold in packages of less than 20, and to ban flavourings that are being added to tobacco products, such as chocolate, cherry and cinnamon. Single cigarillos can be purchased at kid-friendly prices. Further, by adding flavours attractive to kids, it seems clear the tobacco industry is targeting children. Moreover, when cigarillos are purchased in singles, they do not include the health warning messages that are required on packages of cigarettes.

Cigarillos often become the 'starter' tobacco product, as teenagers are more likely to try cigarillos than they are to try cigarettes, even those who may initially resist smoking cigarettes. Cigarillos are as addictive and dangerous to one's health as cigarettes.

Ontario recently passed a similar Private Members' Bill and it only makes sense for BC to follow their lead. In fact, it would fit within the Premier's goal of making us the healthiest jurisdiction to host the Olympic Games.

Sincerely,



Jack Boomer
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