

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NANB Board of Directors Endorses Position Statement on Electronic Cigarettes and Flavoured Tobacco Products**

FREDERICTON, JUNE 2, 2015- Rapidly growing youth use of e-cigarettes is concerning as it may lead to nicotine addiction and smoking initiation in young people. Emerging evidence clearly indicates health and safety risks associated with e-cigarettes, vaping, flavoured tobacco including menthol, and exposure to second-hand vapour resulting in the Nurses Association of New Brunswick Board of Directors to endorse a position statement that recommends the New Brunswick government include e-cigarettes and flavoured tobacco under the provincial legislation, and ban the sale all flavoured tobacco products, including those with menthol.

“The NANB is encouraged by and supports the government’s recent announcement to ban smoking from additional outdoor spaces, ranging from patios to parks, in an effort to pursue smoking cessation in the province. Government introduced amendments to the *Tobacco Sales Act*, May 29, 2015 banning the sale of all flavoured tobacco in New Brunswick, including menthol. The sale of e-cigarette and e-juices to persons under 19 years of age will also be prohibited. Darline Cogswell, President of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick, states; “this shows government is serious about protecting the health of all New Brunswick people; especially our youth.”

The Ontario government recently passed legislation recognizing electronic cigarettes in the same way as regular cigarettes in Ontario under a new law that also bans the sale of flavoured tobacco. Additionally, e-cigarettes can no longer be sold to anyone under 19 years of age.

In Nova Scotia, legislation banning the sale of flavoured tobacco and treating e-cigarettes like tobacco products came into effect Sunday, May 31, World No Tobacco Day.

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“Quality control and manufacturing standards for e-cigarettes are lacking,” says Cogswell. “As a matter of fact, there is no proven evidence to support e-cigarettes as a cessation aid nor have they been proven to be effective or approved for this purpose.”

With New Brunswick smoking rates ranking amongst the highest in Canada, a full 5% above the national average and with cancer rates on the rise, it is time New Brunswick legislates stricter tobacco access and use laws in the province.

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