



Written Submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology: Study of the subject matter of Bill C-31 (Division 12 of Part 4, Tobacco and Vaping Products Act)

September 2026

Introduction

The Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) is pleased to submit the following comments to inform the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology's study of the subject matter of Bill C-31 (Division 12 of Part 4, Tobacco and Vaping Products Act).

As Canada's national association of paediatricians, paediatric subspecialists and other child and youth health providers, the CPS strongly supports the objectives of the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act (TVPA) and its significant focus on protecting the health and well-being of youth. While progress has been made towards some of the core objectives of the TVPA, meaningful challenges remain, and the landscape of tobacco and nicotine use in Canada continues to evolve.

Context

The serious impacts of nicotine and tobacco use on health and well-being, alongside the speed of changing trends in their use necessitates high-quality, frequent and reliable public reporting on the provision and operation of the TVPA. Current data and transparent monitoring and evaluation is crucial to identifying and responding to worrying trends in tobacco and vaping product use early, effectively, and appropriately.

As such, we have serious concerns over the proposal in Bill C-31 (Division 12 of Part 4, Tobacco and Vaping Products Act) to amend the TVPA "to provide that a review of the provisions and operation of that Act must be undertaken within five years after the report on the previous review has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament rather than every two years and to specify the period within which the report on the review must be tabled".

Moving from a two-year reporting cycle to a five-year reporting cycle is at odds with the need for regular and comprehensive evaluation and limits the ability of future legislative reviews to adapt and respond in a timely way to issues that could impact appropriately regulating the manufacture, sale, labelling and promotion of tobacco and vaping products. A wide variety of stakeholders, including clinicians, researchers, public health professionals, federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments, and the Canadian public have all benefited from the legislative reviews of the TVPA that have taken place since the *Tobacco Act* was amended to become the TVPA in 2018. These reviews have served to study and address important and emerging issues for the effective regulation of tobacco and vaping products in Canada, including the first review that examined access to vaping products by youth in response to a sharp increase in youth vaping. Other crucial focuses of the legislative reviews having included: addressing barriers to cessation, restricting youth access to tobacco products, enhancing awareness and preventing Canadians from being deceived or misled, strengthening compliance and enforcement, meaningfully consulting with Indigenous Peoples, addressing industry interference, and understanding the changing market, including emerging nicotine and tobacco products, to ensure the legislative framework is responsive to modern realities.

Recommendation

When considering the federal government's obligations to review and report on the provisions and operation of the TVPA, it is essential to recognize the evolution of novel synthetic nicotine and tobacco

products in Canada and the speed at which usage trends can change, particularly for adolescents and youth. Some of the most salient examples include high-capacity disposal/"smart" vaping devices, oral nicotine pouches, nicotine-analogue products such as 6-methyl nicotine (also referred to as "metatine") as well as novel oral nicotine formats including nicotine gummies, toothpicks and rapid-dissolve tablets. Each of these products has emerged in the past five years. Similarly, in the four-year period between the 2014-15 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSTADS) and the 2018-2019 CSTADS, past-30-day e-cigarette use nearly quadrupled, jumping from [5.7%](#) to [20.2%](#) among students in grades 7-12. Such rapid changes clearly demonstrate that to effectively support the health and well-being of young people in Canada, five years is simply too long to wait.

If there are significant challenges that prevent Health Canada from maintaining the two-year reporting cycle currently mandated in the TVPA, we would advocate for the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to recommend that a review of the provisions and operations of the TVPA be undertaken within three years after the report on the previous review has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament, rather than every five years as proposed in Bill C-31. Moving from a two-year reporting cycle to a five-year cycle is a significant jump, especially considering the nature of this serious public health issue and the rapidity of population level trends in tobacco and nicotine product use. A three-year reporting cycle would be a more prudent approach that would respond to any challenges with the current reporting requirements while minimizing the potential negative impacts of the proposal in Bill C-31 (Division 12 of Part 4, Tobacco and Vaping Products Act).

About the CPS

The Canadian Paediatric Society is the national association of paediatricians, committed to working together to advance the health of children and youth by nurturing excellence in health care, advocacy, education, research, and support of its membership. Founded in 1922, the CPS is a voluntary professional association that represents more than 4,000 paediatricians, paediatric subspecialists, paediatric residents, and others who work with and care for children and youth.