

September 5, 2019

## POLITICIANS URGED TO REDUCE ACCESS TO VAPING BY YOUTH

Young Manitobans are at risk of developing nicotine dependency and related illnesses from vaping, yet recent research has shown the rates of young people vaping across Canada have increased by more than 74% since 2017. The Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA) is calling on all provincial political parties to commit to reducing access to vaping and tobacco products by increasing the legal age for purchase to 21.

“Manitoba has made several positive steps to ensure youth are protected from smoking and this needs to expand to include vaping,” said John McDonald, Executive Director, MANTRA. “All parties need to stand behind their talk about the future of Manitoba by helping to reduce vaping and smoking among youth.”

In advance of the upcoming election, political parties have been asked how they will take action on youth vaping and tobacco-related concerns. While all parties speak about the future, there is little discussion about moving forward in protecting youth from vaping and tobacco products and the diseases they cause.

“We know policies and regulations protecting people from the dangers of tobacco work – as evidenced by the progress in reducing youth smoking,” said Sarah Hawkins, Health Policy Analyst, Canadian Cancer Society, Prairie Region. “We cannot let a new generation of youth become addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes. We need to be forward thinking with new regulations to respond to this new threat and to protect the youth of Manitoba.”

With politicians reluctant to commit to stronger tobacco and vaping reduction strategies, MANTRA spoke to youth who support such measures. Hear their voices: <https://youtu.be/NSOAPBsr98k>.

MANTRA’s position on vaping and tobacco is supported by its partners including the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Lung Association and Heart & Stroke Foundation.

-30-

CONTACT: John McDonald  
Executive Director  
Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA)  
Tel: 204-784-7030

Sarah Hawkins  
Health Policy Analyst  
Canadian Cancer Society, Prairie Region  
Tel: 204-975-9218