CMA’s Recommendations for Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts
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CMA Submission:
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Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

April 7, 2017

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
On behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), I am responding to your request for consultation on the renewal of the Tobacco Control Strategy (TCS), and on the consultation on the renewal of the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FTCS). We are pleased to provide our input on these initiatives.

The latest Canadian Secondary Survey Report (2016) finds that 17% of Canadians aged 15 and older who currently smoke are occasional smokers at 5% (95% CI 3.2-9.3). Although smoking rates continue to decline, we must remain vigilant and continue to take action to ensure the health of Canadians.

We support the Federal Government’s goal of bringing tobacco use down to 5% by 2015. We must recognize that specific subpopulations, such as Aboriginal populations, will require targeted efforts to achieve this goal.

The CMA recommends that health outcomes, including health disparities, be monitored and that tobacco use be measured in all settings to allow for comprehensive evaluation. The CMA also recommends that interventions be developed and implemented to reduce the harms associated with tobacco use. Additionally, we recommend that the government continue to support research on the health impacts of tobacco use.

As the report suggests, a reduced smoking rate must be achieved by promoting evidence-based health policies and practices. We encourage the federal government to continue to support initiatives that will help to reduce tobacco use and its associated health risks.

The CMA believes that reducing the number of smokers is crucial to improving the health of Canadians. We commend the government for its commitment to reducing tobacco use and look forward to working collaboratively to achieve this goal.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association