Response to Health Canada’s proposed order amending the Schedule to the Tobacco Act (Menthol)

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13797

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Malcolm Scott
President, Canadian Medical Association

Dear Mr. Scott,

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is pleased to respond to your letter regarding Health Canada’s proposed order amending the Schedule to the Tobacco Act (Menthol). We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

The CMA has been concerned about the negative impact that menthol cigarettes have on public health, particularly among youth and vulnerable populations. There is strong evidence that menthol cigarettes are more addictive and difficult to quit than non-menthol cigarettes. This is due to the cooling and masking effects of menthol, which can make smoking more enjoyable and reduce the perception of harm.

Moreover, menthol cigarettes are particularly popular among youth and can help to turn smokers into long-term users, making it easier for them to develop addiction. This is a significant concern given the long-term health consequences of smoking.

We believe that the proposed order amending the Schedule to the Tobacco Act (Menthol) is a necessary step to address these concerns. We urge Health Canada to implement the proposed order as soon as possible, and to continue to monitor the impact of these changes on public health.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Scott, MD
President, Canadian Medical Association

Canadian Medical Association