

NEWS RELEASE

Saskatoon, November 7, 2019

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lung Association and Youth4Change groups Applaud the Government of Saskatchewan and the Official Opposition for Working Together to Protect Saskatchewan Kids with the Unanimous Passing of Bill 182!

The Lung Association and its Youth4Change groups are pleased by the result of the deliberations in the Saskatchewan legislature, which saw the unanimous approval of Bill 182, the Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2019. The First Reading of the bill took place on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 and the bill was fast-tracked, ultimately passing without amendment after being approved at the Second Reading, Committee of the Whole and Third Reading on Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

“We are thrilled to see that both sides of the house were able to prioritize this important issue, put their political differences aside, and come together to pass this important bill to protect the health of our children,” said Jennifer May, Acting President & CEO/Vice President of Community Engagement at The Lung Association. “The passage of this bill is particularly timely as earlier in the week, Health Minister Jim Reiter proclaimed November as Lung Awareness Month.”

Bill 182’s Third Reading was expected to take place next spring; however, the members of the house were united in their resolve to protect the health of Saskatchewan youth. With this expedited approval of Bill 182, they demonstrated the importance of this matter and made it clear that imposing restrictions on vaping and vaping products, and ensuring the enforcement of the new vaping regulations could not wait.

Dr. Mark Fenton, Respiriologist and Board member of The Lung Association said “I’m thrilled that this legislation passed quickly. To treat vaping and vaping products like tobacco products sets a foundation for protecting our kids from their potential harm.”

“There has been a dramatic rise in youth vaping over the past few years. Vaping products are highly addictive, trendy and extremely popular among teens and young adults,” says Joseph Chiliak, Youth4Change. “On behalf of the three Youth4Change groups, thank you for protecting Saskatchewan Kids.”

“This is a great day for Lung Health! We would like to thank Health Minister Jim Reiter for his leadership, and thank all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly for responding so quickly and diligently to our call for prompt action by supporting Bill 182,” said Ms. May.

- 30 -

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About The Lung Association, Saskatchewan: The Lung Association is Saskatchewan’s oldest health charity. We have been working on lung health issues for over 108 years and have seen huge strides and changes in our province due to generations of great work. We have led the fight for healthy lungs and healthy air. We fight for the 1 in 5; that is, the 1 in 5 Canadians affected by lung disease including asthma, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, and lung cancer. The Lung Association raises funds to support vital research, advocacy, education, and patient support programs here in Saskatchewan.

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Health Minister Jim Reiter, Dr. Mark Fenton, Ms. Jennifer May, Acting President & CEO - Vice President Community Engagement, The Lung Association, Lung Association staff and the Youth4Change groups celebrating the introduction of Bill 182 on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

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