



CICC Applauds Ontario's Anti-Youth Vaping Measures and Calls for Action Against Illegal Online Market

April 29, 2024 (TORONTO, ON) - The Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) - which represents more than 7,600 local corner stores operating in Ontario - issued the below statement regarding new efforts from the Government of Ontario to curb youth vaping rates. The statement is attributable to Anne Kothawala, President and CEO of the Convenience Industry Council of Canada:

"Law-abiding corner stores welcome new measures from the Ontario government to curb youth vaping use in the province. These actions include tougher enforcement for minors caught with vape products and cigarettes at high school, as well as funding for anti-vaping campaigns aimed at youth.

Our stores have a zero-tolerance policy with respect to youth access and use of nicotine products. Our trained retailers have decades of experience in retailing age-restricted products, including tobacco and vape. We also have a proven track record in keeping these products out of the hands of young people and play an important role in both smoking prevention and cessation.

Until we address the illegal online market, which sells all these products without age verification and often without taxes paid, youth will continue to have access to nicotine products, thereby undermining cessation efforts. We once again call on all levels of government to take concrete action on the illegal, contraband market by shutting down these illegal websites and making investments in law enforcement to tackle the evergreen problem of contraband tobacco in this province."

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About the Convenience Industry Council of Canada

As the voice of Canada's convenience industry, the Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) advocates on behalf of 7,600 retailers in Ontario and 22,500 retailers across the country that contribute more than \$25 billion in combined federal and provincial taxes, while employing 193,000 Canadians.

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