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Waterpipe & Shisha Smoking in Public Places

Importance of Current Protections Under Public Places Bylaw

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Land acknowledgement

AHS would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8, and the homeland of the Métis.

We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.

Objectives of Presentation

- Provide an update on health hazards associated with waterpipe smoking including herbal/non-tobacco smoking
- Address myths associated with herbal/non tobacco
- Identify how current Public Places bylaw supports goals of ConnectEdmonton's Strategic Plan 2019-28.

Smoking shisha in public places



Waterpipe Smoking

- Culturally relevant behaviour in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.
- Cultural relevance \neq Sacred practices
- Harms the health of consumer and others exposed to second-hand smoke

Middle East - protection offered by tobacco smoking or waterpipe smoking legislation in indoor public places



Middle Eastern population covered by waterpipe smoking bans during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions



Smoking shisha in public places

Youth

- 17.7% of Albertan students in Grades 9-12 have tried hookah.
- 45.9% believe hookah to be less harmful than smoking cigarettes.

Why?

- Fun
- New experience
- Low-risk
- Easy

What is social modelling?



Health & Safety Challenges

- Adequate disinfection of apparatus
- Kitchens used to prepare and clean apparatus
- Determining if the products contain tobacco
- Enforcing operation of ventilation units

Smoking shisha in public places

