

Urban Planning and Economy

**Stakeholder Engagement and
Recommendations Regarding
Indoor Shisha Consumption**

Edmonton

Lyla Peter, Director, Development Approvals and Inspections
edmonton.ca/business_economy/business-licensing

History

July 2018

CPSC directed Administration to bring forward amendments to the Public Places Bylaw to prohibit indoor consumption of shisha.



2019/20



June 2019

City Council approved amendments to the Public Places Bylaw to align the definitions of indoor smoking, cannabis, tobacco and shisha. This led to the prohibition of all indoor shisha smoking effective July 1, 2020.

January 2021

CPSC directed Administration to provide a report with options to allow indoor shisha smoking.

April 2021

Administration presented options to CPSC. A motion was made to proceed with allowing indoor consumption of shisha, which was not passed by CPSC.



2021

2022



October / November 2022

Council directed Administration to engage with stakeholders and provide options to allow indoor shisha smoking.

2018

Public Health Feedback

AHS and ASH identified the following risks:

- Impact to those with underlying health conditions.
- The presence of nicotine and other carcinogens in non-tobacco products such as herbal shisha.
- Impact on youth, who experience water pipes as a novelty, and are often unaware of adverse health effects.
- Insufficient ventilation and physical separation to protect others

Social and Cultural Feedback

Community members and business owner feedback:

- There is cultural significance for people of African and South Asian descent. For some, consuming shisha plays a role in how these communities congregate while others identified that this practice is outdated.
- Shisha lounges provided a safe environment for some in the community.
- In the religion of Islam, adherents do not consume alcohol - smoking shisha is a different way to relieve stress.

Engineering Report

Findings from Administration's analysis of the "*Shisha Lounge Ventilation and Isolation*" engineering report

- ASHRAE Standard 62: *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality* is the adopted standard within the National Building Code (Alberta Edition).
- ASHRAE's position is that current indoor ventilation systems are not capable of entirely eliminating smoke, and that all smoking activity inside and near buildings should be eliminated

Administration's Position

Administration is recommending that no bylaw amendments be made with respect to reintroducing the allowance of indoor shisha consumption.

Questions and Thank You

Lyla Peter, Director, Development Approvals and Inspections
edmonton.ca/business_economy/business-licensing

Edmonton