

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Lung Association of Nova Scotia responds to law amendments**

**Halifax, NS** – The Lung Association of Nova Scotia believes that an opportunity has been missed by the Government of Nova Scotia by choosing to move forward with the current cannabis legislation without amendments, despite feedback from the public and health organizations that stronger restrictions are needed to protect the public from second-hand cannabis smoke.

“We’re disappointed that our collective voices did not appear to be heard,” said Robert MacDonald, President and CEO of the Lung Association of Nova Scotia. “Second-hand smoke is a health hazard. We believe that it is much easier to protect the lung health of Nova Scotians by enacting stricter legislation from the onset – at least until there is more research done and more known on how this complex matter will unfold.”

Other jurisdictions are moving towards no cannabis use in public places to protect their citizens from second-hand cannabis smoke.

“Nova Scotia has had a history of being leaders in smoke protection in public places,” said MacDonald. “However this legislation will not be as cautious as other provinces and the ambiguity of the language within the current legislation is creating much confusion.”

“While we appreciate that municipalities will have the ability to adopt their own by-laws, there will not be equal protection from second-hand cannabis smoke, for non-users and people living with lung issues.”

“We will continue to advocate for stronger policies by continuing to work with the provincial government, and by reaching out to the municipalities - to work together for a uniform approach. This issue will have a significant impact on the health of all Nova Scotians. We must be bold in protection and cannot afford hindsight on this issue.”

**About the Lung Association of Nova Scotia**

The Lung Association of Nova Scotia is a volunteer-driven charity organization whose mission is to improve quality of life by controlling and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy, patient services and research.

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