

Tobacco retail transition

I will pursue fewer cigarette outlets and better help to quit, while giving affected small businesses a fair transition. The goal is lower smoking, not shifting the health burden onto Hastings.

WHAT I WILL BRING FORWARD

- Seek legal and public-health review of a capped, declining retail transition zone in the DTES. No new outlets or promotion; any temporary zone must expire and pass a neighbourhood-equity assessment.
- Aim to phase out ordinary storefront cigarette sales elsewhere over years one and two, where lawful. Petition BC for a province-wide, age-verified mail-order model by the end of the term.
- Design two years of time-limited support for eligible small shops to replace tobacco revenue with other products. Proposed higher licence charges on continuing sellers must have lawful authority and a published funding gap.
- Include cessation access, protection against youth sales, rural and disability access, tax enforcement and monitoring of illicit sales in the provincial request.

Delivery. Bring a legal options and transition-cost report before any closure bylaw. If the DTES zone cannot be justified, pursue a citywide declining-outlet model through BC rather than concentrate harm.

Public measures. Track outlet density, smoking prevalence using comparable surveys, cessation access, business survival and illicit-market indicators.

Conditions. Retail availability rules and smoke-free doorway rules address different harms. Do not claim this approach is proven superior or that mail order eliminates youth access. Provincial adoption cannot be guaranteed by a mayor.

Connects to: 01, 20, 23

Evidence notes: S01 in the full policy package.