

## Codner, Tamara A HLTH:EX

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**From:** Kelley Lee <kelley\_lee@sfu.ca>  
**Sent:** February 25, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Jennifer Fang  
**Subject:** Re: Introductions - research on youth vaping

Hi Gerald,

This is wonderful news thank you so much. I am very keen on the concept of the commercial determinants which is really taking off in many places. We have a CIHR Planning Grant to develop the concept and a potential composite index of CDH as risk factors. I see your portfolio is quite remarkable and at the intersection of many of these CDH. Researchers need to connect the dots better across these different issue areas. We published a couple of books in 2016 bringing together research and research methods on corporate actors across a range of health-harming products and industries including alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

To be a Knowledge User on our grant, we will need three things. The first is a CIHR PIN. I am copying this email to Jennifer Fang, our Project Coordinator, in case you need the instructions for obtaining this. We cannot enter you on the system without this 5-digit number but they are easy to register for.

The other is a signed letter confirming your support and participation as a knowledge user. You may wish to describe the importance of the research to your needs, as a policy maker, in the context of alarming rates of vaping among youth. Your role in facilitating access to data sources and key informant interviews might also be mentioned as this is something reviewers want to see to ensure the project is feasible. The core idea is to study 4 commercial determinants of youth vaping pathways in the Canadian context and then to use BC as our case study.

Finally, I understand that there will be a signature sheet to sign and return which Jennifer can send to you.

Thanks again Gerald - we very much hope that we can work with you to tackle this concerning issue. Please do let me know if you require any further information at this point.

Best wishes,

Kelley

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**From:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** February 25, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** Kelley Lee  
**Subject:** RE: Introductions - research on youth vaping

Hi Kelley,

I am happy to be a formal knowledge user on your grant application. Please remind me of how we set that up...I think it's a letter from us, right?

And on a related note, I was recently made aware of this fabulously useful and emerging topic/concept in public health: the commercial determinants of health. Here's a recent journal edition devoted entirely to this topic in case you weren't aware of it:

<http://www.phrp.com.au/issues/september-2019-volume-29-issue-3/>

Regards,

G

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**From:** Kelley Lee

**Sent:** February 25, 2020 4:21 PM

**To:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX

**Cc:** Rita Koutsodimos

**Subject:** Re: Introductions - research on youth vaping

**Importance:** High

Dear Gerald,

I am grateful to Rita for introducing me and letting you know about an application we are submitting to CIHR next week on youth vaping. As described, we are focusing on the commercial determinants of youth vaping which has so far received limited research attention. Our team has studied the tobacco industry for 20+ years, initially from the UK and at SFU since 2012, and I'm keen to apply my knowledge to studying the vaping industry. Please see attached a brief description of what we are aiming to achieve.

Given your leadership here in BC on this issue, I would be grateful to speak to you at your earliest convenience on this proposal. In particular, we are keen to have confirmed "knowledge users" to ensure our research is directly engaged with policy makers and public health organizations. We want to generate research that will help strengthen the regulatory framework around youth vaping in BC but also federally. For this reason, we would be very keen to have a link to the BC government in some way. We have Health Canada confirmed already at this point. Engagement with knowledge users will strengthen our bid for CIHR resources to study this issue.

Thanks for considering Gerald and welcome a phone call this week if at all possible? Our proposal is due next Wednesday (March 4) so we are racing to the deadline.

Kind regards,

Kelley

Professor Kelley Lee

Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Global Health Governance | Faculty of Health Sciences

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8888 University Dr., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

T: 778 782 9039 | [www.sfu.ca/fhs](http://www.sfu.ca/fhs)

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### Recent Publications

Mathers A, Hawkins B, [Lee K](#). Transnational tobacco companies and new nicotine delivery systems. *American Journal of Public Health* 2019; 109(2):227-235.

McInnes C, [Lee K](#), Youde J. eds. Oxford Handbook of Global Health Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

[Lee K](#). How China became a cigarette superpower. *Lancet* 2019; 393; June 1.

Cohen J, [Lee K](#). State versus private ownership of tobacco companies: Prioritising public health is the real issue. *BMJ* 2019; 365: 14056.



Simon Fraser University acknowledges the Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ), Kwikwetlem (kʷikwəʔəm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəyəm) Nations.

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**From:** Rita Koutsodimos <[RKoutsodimos@bchealthyliving.ca](mailto:RKoutsodimos@bchealthyliving.ca)>

**Sent:** February 25, 2020 3:36 PM

**To:** Kelley Lee; Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX

**Subject:** Introductions - research on youth vaping

Hello Gerald and Kelley,

I'd like to introduce you two.

Gerald, Kelley is a researcher at SFU who has brought together a team to study the commercial determinants of youth vaping. She is looking to connect with policymakers and knowledge users to inform the study design.

You can also find information about her group here: <http://www.sfu.ca/globaltobaccocontrol.html>

Kelley – please meet Gerald who I mentioned is the lead on vaping in the Ministry of Health – as well as tobacco, cannabis and alcohol.

All the best,

Rita Koutsodimos

Executive Director

BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society

#310 – 1212 West Broadway

Vancouver, BC V6H 3V2

T: 604-629-1630 C: 604-989-4546

Join [BCAHL](#) on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

BCAHL's vision is for a healthier British Columbia. Through leadership and collaboration, BCAHL is working to address the risk factors and health inequities that contribute significantly to chronic disease.

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**From:** [Jennifer Fang](#)  
**To:** [Janicker, Maria HLTH:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Introductions - research on youth vaping  
**Date:** February 26, 2020 7:20:10 PM

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Hi Maria,

Being a knowledge user doesn't entail any commitment. Rather, these are the people with the practical knowledge who we hope may be able to inform our research, and in turn, use our findings. Here's the definition according to CIHR:

"A knowledge-user is an individual who is likely to be able to use the knowledge generated through research to make informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices. A knowledge-user's level of engagement in the research process may vary in intensity and complexity depending on the nature of the research and his/her information needs. A knowledge-user can be, but is not limited to, a practitioner, policy-maker, educator, decision-maker, health care administrator, community leader, or an individual in a health charity, patient group, private sector organization, or media outlet."

Hope this helps!

Jennifer

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**From:** Janicker, Maria HLTH:EX <Maria.Janicker@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2020 4:45:21 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Fang  
**Subject:** RE: Introductions - research on youth vaping

Thanks Jennifer.

Are there obligations to being a knowledge user?

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**From:** Jennifer Fang <jennifer\_fang@sfu.ca>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2020 9:30 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX <Gerald.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>; Janicker, Maria HLTH:EX <Maria.Janicker@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Kelley Lee <kelley\_lee@sfu.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Introductions - research on youth vaping

Hi Gerald and Maria,

Here are a couple of letters as examples.

Hope this helps!

Jennifer

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**From:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX <[Gerald.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gerald.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** Janicker, Maria HLTH:EX <[Maria.Janicker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Maria.Janicker@gov.bc.ca)>; Jennifer Fang <[jennifer\\_fang@sfu.ca](mailto:jennifer_fang@sfu.ca)>  
**Cc:** Kelley Lee <[kelley\\_lee@sfu.ca](mailto:kelley_lee@sfu.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Introductions - research on youth vaping  
**Importance:** High

Hi Maria,

Here's an exciting proposal from Kelley Lee from SFU we have been invited to be a formal knowledge user on. You know how much I love the concept of commercial determinants of health.

Can you please work with Jennifer to draft a letter of support for the Grant application? Sorry for the rush...they need this by Friday AM. She may have a draft she can share with us. I have a draft of similar letter from another CIHR project I could dig up if necessary.

Thanks in advance,

G

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**From:** Kelley Lee <[kelley\\_lee@sfu.ca](mailto:kelley_lee@sfu.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 25, 2020 4:21 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Gerald HLTH:EX <[Gerald.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gerald.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Rita Koutsodimos <[RKoutsodimos@bchealthyliving.ca](mailto:RKoutsodimos@bchealthyliving.ca)>  
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Kelley

Professor Kelley Lee

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All the best,

Rita Koutsodimos  
Executive Director  
BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society  
#310 – 1212 West Broadway  
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T: 604-629-1630 C: 604-989-4546

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**From:** [Rob Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [Rob Cunningham](#)  
**Subject:** media items regarding smoking, vaping and COVID-19  
**Date:** April 16, 2020 4:50:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [image029.png](#)

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Below are a number of media items

Here is a video report from Global News BC from April 8, 2020.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6797767/coronavirus-danger-for-smokers>

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<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/are-smokers-or-vapers-more-at-risk-for-covid-19-heres-what-we-know/>

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<https://www.coastreporter.net/time-for-smokers-to-butt-out-is-now-or-risk-ventilator-shortage-researcher-1.24114275>

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<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/health-family/do-you-smoke-or-vape-here-s-why-covid-19-means-you-should-quit-right-now-1.4217001>

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<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/06/opinions/smoking-vaping-covid-19-coronavirus-maa/index.html>

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<https://www.cpr.org/2020/04/14/as-coronavirus-spreads-many-nicotine-users-look-to-quit-but-the-stressful-times-can-make-that-hard-to-do/>

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<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/smokers-not-cutting-down-despite-covid-19-risks-993412.html>

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February 28, 2020

1156173

Professor Kelley Lee  
Tier 1 Canada Research Chair  
in Global Health Governance  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Simon Fraser University  
Blusson Hall 11024  
8888 University Dr  
Burnaby BC V5A 1S6

Dear Professor Lee:

Thank you for your request for a letter of support for your proposal titled "*Tobacco industry adaptation to globalization and regulatory change since the mid-2000s: Implications for Canada's Tobacco Strategy (2018-2022)*", for which you are seeking CIHR funding.

Like other Canadian jurisdictions, and every community member concerned about the health of young people, the Province of British Columbia (the Province) is concerned about the rapid rise in youth vaping, for reasons including its known health impacts, especially in youth, its unknown long-term health impacts, and interactions with our tobacco control efforts and policy. As you may know, in November 2019, the Province launched a youth vaping response program that includes regulatory, economic and programmatic responses.

Our role will continue to develop as the vaping phenomenon matures, and as a result, we have been and will continue to be users of quality evidence to inform our evidence-based approaches. In this regard, we would be eager to act a knowledge user and be directly engaged with the research proposed in a bid to reduce any delays in knowledge translation. I would consider Ministry of Health team members involved in all areas of tobacco and vapour response to be valuable partners in this role, including my colleagues working in regulatory responses, in addition to my team working in prevention and reduction pillars.

We look forward to a positive result from your research proposal, and to be an active knowledge user.

Sincerely,

Gerald Thomas  
Director  
Legal Substances &  
Problem Gambling Policy & Prevention