

# Regulating Continuous Flame Butane Lighters

## Council Report

May 8, 2024



## **Concerns about increased fire and personal safety risk**

- Butane lighters are a handheld torch used to create a very hot flame
- Versions of the device include a continuous flame option and makes them prone to accidents

## **Surge in fire incidents in 2023 in Vancouver attributed to smoker materials.**

- 31% increase in structure fires in 2023 compared to the previous year
- An SRO resident is 67 times more likely to experience a structure fire

## **Feedback on proposed regulations**

- Clear support for advocacy at high levels of government to further enhance fire safety and address additional concerns
- Potential impact on the restaurant industry. Regulating only the retail sale will lessen impact, due to alternative avenues to purchase devices
- Highlighted the importance of implementing any changes in phases to allow for a smooth transition

## **Additional feedback on fire safety**

- Support for education on safer smoking practices and butane lighter fire safety
- Increase availability of supervised inhalation spaces, harm reduction supplies for smoking, and smoking resources

- 1. Prohibit the retail sale of continuous flame butane lighters:**

Amend License By-law to regulate the sale of devices that produces a flame, is fuelled by butane, and does not require the ongoing intervention of the user to produce a continuous flame.

  - Amendment to the Ticket Offences By-law regarding the sale of continuous flame butane lighters to enforce a \$1000 fine
  - Non-continuous flame butane lighters will still be available for purchase
  - Enactment of the regulations set for June 28, 2024
  
- 2. The Mayor on behalf of Council send letters to the provincial and federal governments in support of:**
  - Regulations for safer continuous flame butane lighters
  - Specific measures for supportive housing buildings
  - Product regulations through the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*



THANK YOU