

Request for Information (RFI) Number: 1000205055

Health Canada

Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch (CSCB), Tobacco Control Directorate (TCD)

Project Title: *Modeling to Evaluate the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act and the Emergence of Novel Nicotine Products in Canada (Agent and Population-Based).*

Purpose:

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) enquiry is as follows:

1. To assess the feasibility of creating a robust and defensible simulation model of either type (agent-based or population-based), using the level of data currently available on tobacco and vaping product use in Canada
2. To establish a timeline required to develop the model(s);
3. To determine the estimated cost (as a range) to develop the model(s);
4. To assess the feasibility of a single contractor completing BOTH modeling streams (agent-based and population-based).

Note to Potential Respondents:

This is not a bid solicitation and a contract will not result.

Potential respondents are advised that any information submitted to the government in response to this Request for Information may be used by the government in the development of a subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP).

The issuance of this Request for Information does not create an obligation for Canada to issue a subsequent RFP.

It should also be noted that no agreement to do business with any respondent will result from this specific enquiry.

Closing Date:

Responses to this Request for Information will be accepted at any time until Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Contracting Authority:

All enquiries and responses related to this Request for Information shall be directed to the Contracting Authority.

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REQUIREMENTS DEFINITION

Modeling to Evaluate the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act and the Emergence of Novel Nicotine Products in Canada

SCOPE

Introduction

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths each year.¹ While significant progress has been made to reduce the number of Canadians who smoke, there is a need for continued and sustained national efforts to prevent smoking initiation and provide assistance to those who intend to quit tobacco use. With the renewal of Canada's Tobacco Strategy (CTS), the Government of Canada has committed to a goal of '5 by 2035', referring to a target of 5% tobacco use prevalence by the year 2035. The effect that novel products, including electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products, might have on this goal is an area of key interest.

Health Canada has a requirement to model the impacts of tobacco control policies on the use of tobacco and nicotine products, as well as the associated health outcomes, in two specific streams:

Stream 1: one agent-based model and;

Stream 2: one population-based model.

These computational models will use publicly available data and will simulate trends in product use and harms. They must incorporate novel nicotine products (e.g., e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products) and evaluate the potential impacts of these products on population health in the future, through both direct health effects and the potential influence these products might have on the use of other tobacco products.

Stream 1: Agent-Based Model AND Stream 2: Population-Based Model

The contractor will be required to develop (or adapt) an agent-based and/or a population-based tobacco control model to consider past, current and future patterns of use of tobacco and nicotine products in Canada and the Canadian policy environment.

The model(s) must:

1. use publicly available data;
2. be evaluated and applied over a sufficiently long period to observe changes in use patterns and impacts on population health that might arise from chronic disease. It is expected that the model would be applied retrospectively for a period of at least 15 years (or as far back as the data available allow), and would be applied prospectively for a period of 40 years or more (i.e., 2060 or later);
3. consider both cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and the interactions between the use of these products (e.g., dual-use, smoking initiation among vapers). Inclusion of heated tobacco products is desirable. Inclusion or exclusion of these products in the model can be negotiated with the Project Authority;
4. assess trends in initiation, cessation and prevalence at the national level, as well population health impacts (e.g., product-attributable mortality, life years lost, disability-

¹ Dobrescu, A., Bhandari, A., Sutherland, G., Dinh, T. (2017). The Costs of Tobacco Use in Canada, 2012. The Conference Board of Canada.

adjusted life years). The ability to model use and impacts at the sub-national level would be considered beneficial, but not compulsory;

5. have the capability to test the effect of different policies, which may include (but are not limited to) changes to initiation, switching and cessation that might arise from changes to the minimum legal age, product price, and product appeal or addictiveness.

REQUIREMENTS

Tasks, Activities, Deliverables and Milestones

1. Data Collection and Analysis

The Contractor will conduct necessary literature reviews and collect relevant data required to build the model(s) and perform the analysis, which will provide estimates of the effects of tobacco policies implemented in the period since the implementation of the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy in 2001 and the effect of future policies on prevalence of use for tobacco and nicotine products, as well as relevant indicators for population health (e.g. smoking attributable mortality).

The contractor will be responsible for acquiring all data required for model development.

Technical, Operational and Organizational Environment

All work is to be completed at the contractor's facilities utilizing the equipment of the Contractor.

Data along with a final report will be compiled and delivered to the Project authority in electronic format acceptable to Health Canada (e.g., Microsoft Word and SPSS, STATA and/or Microsoft Excel format).

Respondents are asked to provide feedback on the four (4) elements described above by email to the Contracting Authority on or before July 16, 2019.