



Tobacco and Smoke Free Environment

Section: Health and Safety
No: 6.4
Effective Date: February 1993
Revised: Jan 2006, July 2014
Approved by: President

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicine Hat College is committed to providing and promoting a healthy and safe environment for all members of the college community and will conduct activities in a manner that complies with all legal obligations. Smoking is the leading cause of premature death in Canada. While progress has been made in reducing tobacco use, it remains a serious health problem.

The Alberta Tobacco Reduction Act stipulates that all indoor facilities at Medicine Hat College are to be a tobacco and smoke free environment. The College supports the reduction of exposure to potentially hazardous substances for all College users and further prohibits other smoke generating devices in all facilities. Electronic cigarettes are included in this prohibition until such time as they are approved for use by Health Canada. The act of smoking is permitted in designated smoking areas only.

SCOPE

The Alberta tobacco reduction act specifies that no person shall smoke;

1. in a public place
2. in a workplace
3. in a public vehicle (including College Fleet vehicles)
4. within a prescribed distance (5M) from a doorway, window or air intake of a public place or workplace

The City of Medicine Hat "Smoking in outdoor places" bylaw, further excludes smoking as follows;

- No person shall smoke within ten (10) metres of an outdoor public place
- Notwithstanding Section 3 and subject to the *Tobacco Reduction Act* (Alberta) and regulations thereunder, smoking is permitted on a roadway, sidewalk, parking lot, campground, golf course, or private residential property but is not permitted on the City's Heritage Trail System including the campus trail system

A. Definitions

1. Tobacco - means a product composed in whole or in part of tobacco, including tobacco leaves and any extract of tobacco leaves but does not include any product for use in nicotine replacement therapy
2. Smoke generating devices – this includes pipes, hookahs and similar devices, as well as electronic cigarettes
3. Designated smoking areas – the College has designated five specific areas away from entrances for the use of smokers

B. Procedures

Spiritual and Cultural Ceremonies

Any event requiring the burning of tobacco or any other substance shall normally be permitted in outdoor spaces only. The College fire suppression system is not designed to permit “limited” smoke generation. The organizer of the event is responsible for contacting Facility Operations at the time of booking to make arrangements.

Enforcement

College users smoking outside of designated smoking areas are to be reminded of the smoking locations and encouraged to move. Failure to comply with this direction shall be deemed cause for disciplinary action. All managers are responsible for enforcing this policy.

C. Legislative and Collective Agreement References

Tobacco Reduction Act (Alberta) and
Guideline <http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/tobacco-reduction.html>

Medicine Hat Bylaw 4136 – Prohibition of smoking in outdoor places
<https://www.medicinehat.ca/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4747>