

STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

University Policy No.: AD1325

Classification: Administration

Approval Authority: President

Effective Date: September 1, 2018

Supersedes: FH 8.7 Smoking on Campus

Last Editorial Change:

Mandated Review: September 1, 2025

Associated Procedures:

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this Policy is to enable the overall health and well-being of all members of the University Community. This Policy also serves to:

- a) confirm Concordia's commitment to a healthy and safe environment;
- b) diminish exposure to smoke and tobacco and promote health and safety by prohibiting smoking and tobacco use on University property, including in vehicles;
- c) support reduction and cessation of smoking and tobacco products through education, culture change and increased access to resources and support such as counseling and medication;
- d) acknowledge that some traditional spiritual or cultural ceremonies involve the use of ceremonial tobacco;
- e) acknowledge that there may be need for exceptions to this policy, for example in the case of physician prescribed use of medical marijuana, and to outline the process for managing such exceptions.
- e) increase awareness about the detrimental impact smoking has on health and well-being; and
- f) establish the responsibility of roles, as outlined in this Policy, who are in a position to make or influence decisions at Concordia to comply with and enforce the policy.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Smoking** - Inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookahs (waterpipe) and cannabis, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device. This definition does not include emissions from University approved-for-use equipment, e.g. smoke machines, approved pyrotechnics.
- **Tobacco Product(s)** - Any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah (waterpipe), shisha, snuff, chew, dip, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco.
- **Electronic Smoking Device(s)** - Any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other

substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

- **Hookah** - Waterpipe and any associated products and devices which are used to produce fumes, smoke, and/or vapor from the burning of material including, but not limited to, tobacco, shisha, or other plant matter
- **University Property** - Any land boundary owned and controlled, or leased, by Concordia University of Edmonton, inclusive of buildings, learning places, public places, and workplaces.
- **Vehicle** - Any and all modes used for transporting people or goods, such as a car, golf cart, truck, bus.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Members of the University Community (“Community Members”). Community Members include, persons performing duties for Concordia and all learners engaged with Concordia, whether on or off campus, and during working and non-working hours as long as there is a relationship between these matters and Concordia activities. This includes, but is not limited to: students (including undergraduate and graduate students); employees (including faculty members, administrators, academic staff, professors emeriti, and support staff); contractors, volunteers, including board members; and all visitors while they are on Concordia property.

POLICY

As a smoke-free environment, Concordia University of Edmonton is a campus that promotes health and wellness and ensures students, faculty, staff and visitors are not exposed to second-hand smoke. Accordingly, effective September 1, 2018, Concordia University of Edmonton does not permit smoking, or the use of tobacco products in any University owned or leased building, on University property, in any university owned vehicle or in any vehicle while on University property, as outlined in the “Definitions” section.

PROCEDURES FOR BURNING OF SACRED MEDICINES

Concordia University of Edmonton recognizes the unique relationship that many Indigenous cultures have with traditional and sacred medicines such as tobacco, sweet grass, sage, and cedar, among others.

The burning of sacred medicines is permitted within the Indigenous Knowledge and Research Centre. Exemptions for other areas of the University may be granted by the Vice President Student Life and Learning on a case-by-case basis. The purpose of this procedure is to support an environment that is inclusive and welcoming while ensuring that the burning of these medicines is conducted safely and in compliance with all applicable legislation and standards.

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to this policy, for example in the case of physician prescribed use of medical marijuana, may be made by the Vice President Student Life and Learning on a case-by-case basis. If required, conditions may be applied when providing any exception, including but not limited to the specification of areas in which physician prescribed use of medical marijuana may take place on campus.

SUPPORTS

The University will undertake education efforts related to smoking cessation. Smoking cessation promotion, and referrals to smoking cessation programs are done in collaboration with Alberta Health Services.

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Community Members are responsible to be in compliance with this policy and are encouraged to communicate this policy to other Community Members. The success of this policy is dependent upon the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of Community Members, not only to comply, but to continue to encourage the compliance of others. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including measures available under the non-academic misconduct policy for students, and for employees disciplinary action as provided for in University policy. Other community members may be asked to leave campus, with conditions for their return being specified by the Vice President of Student Life and Learning.

AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS

A list of authorities and officers for the policy:

- a. Approving Authority: President
- b. Designated Executive Officer: Vice-President Student Life and Learning
- c. Procedural Authority: President
- d. Procedural Officer: Vice-President Student Life and Learning

RELATED LEGISLATION

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS