

TITLE: CANNABIS ON CAMPUS

POLICY STATEMENT: Red Deer College is committed to protecting the health and safety of the teaching and learning community at all of its campuses. Some hazards related to the use of substances may cause impairment to memory, concentration, attention, decision making, reaction time and increased anxiety, fear or panic and interfere with safety.

PURPOSE: To communicate expectations regarding consumption of any form of Cannabis on campus, provide protection from second-hand Cannabis smoke, prevent youth from being exposed to Cannabis products, and provide support to members of the College who have a Substance Dependence Disorder to Cannabis.

SCOPE: This policy applies to all members of the RDC Community participating in events, activities, RDC programs or courses, organized class activities or business activities including conferences, on or off campus and applies to all RDC campuses.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Policies at RDC:
 - 1.1. Treat all persons fairly and respectfully.
 - 1.2. Are non-discriminatory and non-intrusive.
 - 1.3. Incorporate open, honest and timely communication.
 - 1.4. Are made in a timely manner.
 - 1.5. Provide appropriate confidentiality and privacy.
 - 1.6. Provide appropriate access to the College and education.
 - 1.7. Ensure that all persons have access to informed support regarding policies, procedures, rights and responsibilities.
 - 1.8. Operate with clear written expectations for conduct and handling of complaints.
 - 1.9. Meet all regulatory standards.
 - 1.10. Maintain and clearly state a high standard of instruction and administration in all areas of educational programs and services.
 - 1.11. Are communicated in alternate forms to those who require such accommodation.

DEFINITIONS:

Cannabis: a broad term used to describe the various products derived from the leaves, flowers and resins of the *Cannabis sativa* and *Cannabis indica* plants, or hybrids of the two. These products exist in various forms and are used for different purposes (e.g. medical, recreational, industrial).

NOTE: The federal government of Canada has adopted the term “Cannabis” to describe Cannabis products in general, as opposed to the commonly-used term “marijuana” (which only describes parts of the plant).

Cannabis Consumption: the act of consuming Cannabis for non-medical purposes. Cannabis can be used in many ways, including:

- smoke (e.g. a joint, blunt, spliff, pipe or bong)
- vaporize with a vaporizer (non-portable)
- vaporize with a vape pen or e-cigarette (portable)
- eat in food (e.g. brownies, cakes, cookies or candy or other edible product)
- drink (e.g. tea, juice, cola, alcohol or other drinks)
- dab (e.g. applying to a hot surface with a metal tool)
- other (e.g. tinctures/drops under tongue, applied directly to the skin in a lotion)

Medical Cannabis: Cannabis use that has been authorized by a health care practitioner for medical purposes.

RDC Community: a member of the Red Deer College Community. This includes:

- Student – any person enrolled in study at RDC (e.g. apprentice, credit, non-credit)
- Employee – any person who is employed by RDC or who provides services to RDC under an employment contract (e.g. faculty, staff, exempt personnel)
- RDC Board of Governors – any member of the Board of Governors for RDC
- Volunteer – any person performing work for RDC in an unpaid capacity
- Contractor/Lessee/Tenant – an individual or company (and its employees) who provide services to RDC and/or rents space from RDC
- Community Members/Visitors/Guests – any person working in collaboration with RDC for a business or academic purpose, or a visitor to campus

Substance Dependence Disorder: a primary, progressive, and chronic disease characterized by the regular, repetitive, habitual, obsessive use of a substance or a combination of substances. Moderate to severe Substance Dependence Disorder is characterized by a preoccupation with the substance(s), loss of control, increased tolerance to the substance(s), harmful consequences in one or more major life areas, denial and delusion.

GUIDELINES:

1. The College prohibits the consumption of Cannabis in any form on Red Deer College property including residence, all public places, vehicles and workplaces including but not limited to buildings, garages and the grounds.
2. Medical Cannabis treatment will be addressed through the College's duty to accommodate guidelines.
3. The selling and purchasing of Cannabis on campus is prohibited.
4. Students, employees, RDC Board of Governors and volunteers are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with RDC policies, procedures, and any other attached documentation related to their position, employment, or enrolment at the College. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable policy, collective agreement or terms and conditions of employment.

PROCEDURE:

1. Contractors/Lessees/Tenants in violation of this policy may be required to leave the campus or be subject to actions or breach of contract.

2. Community Members/Visitors/Guests in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the RDC premises.

OFFICER RESPONSIBLE: Vice President, Corporate

POLICY CATEGORY: Non-Academic

RECOMMENDING AUTHORITY: Service Council

CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW: Service Council, Deans' Council, Manager of Health, Safety and Wellness, Manager of Security and Emergency Response

POLICY REVIEW DATE: September 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 17, 2018

REVISION HISTORY: New Policy

RELATED POLICIES:

- [Employee Code of Conduct](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Student Misconduct: Non-Academic](#)
- [Smoking and Tobacco Use](#)
- [Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Workplace Learning](#)

CONNECTION TO BOARD POLICIES:

All RDC policies support relevant Board of Governors policies.