



<b>Smoking, Cannabis, and Tobacco Use</b>	
<b>Category:</b> Administrative	<b>Approval Date:</b> July 21, 2022
<b>Policy Owner:</b> Chief Human Resources Officer	<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2022
<b>Policy Administrator:</b> Manager, Health, Safety and Wellness	<b>Review Period:</b> July 2024
<b>Recommended by:</b> Service Council	
<b>Associated Documents</b> N/A	

**PURPOSE**

To help create a safer and healthier working and learning environment for the Polytechnic community by

- providing protection from second-hand smoke,
- communicating smoking, cannabis, and tobacco use restrictions,
- recognizing that tobacco is an addictive substance,
- preventing youth from being exposed to cannabis products,
- providing smoking or tobacco cessation support to members of the Polytechnic who are addicted to nicotine and prevent tobacco use and smoking uptake,
- providing support to members of the Polytechnic who have a Substance Dependence Disorder to cannabis, and
- promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle and environment.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all members of the Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) community including students, employees, RDP Board of Governors, volunteers, tenants, third party contractors and guests participating in

- events, activities, RDP programs or courses, organized class activities, or
- business activities including conferences, on or off campus and applies to all RDP campuses.

This policy covers:

- smoking of tobacco or any other substance that results in smoke being inhaled or tasted,
- cannabis in any form,
- vaporizing e-cigarettes, or any other vaping device (e.g. vape pen or vaporizer), and

- using oral tobacco or cannabis products.

RDP recognizes and accepts that some traditional Indigenous events or ceremonies involve the use of smudge sticks or other materials as provided under the *Tobacco and Smoking Reductions Act, 2013*.

## **POLICY**

1. The Polytechnic has a responsibility to provide all those within the scope of this policy a safe and healthy environment.
2. Red Deer Polytechnic is committed to protecting the health and safety of the teaching and learning community at all its campuses. The Polytechnic recognizes the hazards caused by exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, as well as the life threatening diseases linked to the use of all forms of tobacco. The Polytechnic recognizes the use of cannabis may cause impairment to memory, concentration, attention, decision making, reaction time and increased anxiety, fear or panic and interfere with safety.
3. The Polytechnic prohibits the consumption of cannabis in any form on RDP property including residence, all public places, vehicles and workplaces including but not limited to buildings, garages and the grounds.
4. Medical cannabis treatment will be addressed through the Polytechnic's duty to accommodate. Further information can be obtained from the RDP Health, Safety and Wellness Centre.
5. All indoor locations on RDP property are smoke-free which includes smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes. This includes student residences and any locations and vehicles owned, rented or leased by RDP. This excludes traditional Indigenous events or ceremonies involving smudge sticks or other materials as provided under the *Tobacco and Smoking Reductions Act, 2013*.
6. Smoking and tobacco use (including e-cigarettes) is strictly limited to labelled outdoor Designated Smoking Areas which are equipped with tobacco receptacles and identified by physical delimitations.
7. RDP outdoor grounds (including pathways, sidewalks, patio areas, landscape areas, playing fields and entranceways) are designated tobacco and smoke free (inclusive of e-cigarettes). This excludes traditional Indigenous events or ceremonies involving smudge sticks or other materials as provided under the *Tobacco and Smoking Reductions Act, 2013*.
8. The selling and purchasing of tobacco products, E-cigarette products, and cannabis on campus is prohibited.
9. Smoking, cannabis cessation support, and tobacco cessation support and services are available to the RDP Community. Further information or assistance can be obtained from the RDP Health, Safety and Wellness Centre.

10. Corrective measures may be necessary in instances where activities are in contravention of this policy or other relevant legislation or local by-laws.
11. Students, employees, RDP Board of Governors and volunteers are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with RDP policies and procedures related to their position, employment, or enrolment at the Polytechnic. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable policy, collective agreement or terms and conditions of employment.
12. Contractors, lessees, tenants in violation of this policy may be required to leave the campus or be subject to actions or breach of contract.
13. Members of the public, visitors, and guests in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the RDP premises.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

*Health and Safety Policy*

*Smudging Protocols On-Campus*

## **DEFINITIONS**

**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.

**Designated Smoking Areas:** outdoor areas approved by Health, Safety and Wellness and are clearly marked with signage.