

SUBJECT	SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY
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BACKGROUND

Northern College, in consultation with the various legislation, the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017*, and Bill 36, and in concern for the health and well-being of all students, staff, contractors, and visitors, has made the decision to have all our campuses become smoke-free and vape-free.

Northern College is committed to providing all members of the college community with a healthy and safe working and learning environment. Since the detrimental effects of "secondhand" smoke on non-smokers are well documented, the College has a responsibility to ensure that employees, students, contractors, and visitors are not exposed to its ill effects. This commitment is reflected through the Smoke-Free Campus Policy.

Further, the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017* provides that an Indigenous person has the right to use tobacco if it is being used for traditional Indigenous ceremonial purposes as outlined in the College's [Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies Administrative Procedure](#).

POLICY

Smoking or vaping is prohibited at Northern College and on all campus grounds. This includes all properties and vehicles owned, rented, or leased by Northern College, and personal vehicles on Northern College property.

The smoking of cannabis is prohibited on all Northern College property, including properties and vehicles owned, rented, or leased by Northern College, and in personal vehicles on Northern College property.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Northern College students, employees, contractors, visitors, and/or any other individuals accessing properties and vehicles owned, rented, or leased by Northern College.

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SUBJECT**SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY****DEFINITIONS**

Cannabis- shall include all forms of cannabis products, including dried weed, pills, oils, edibles, and any other form in which cannabis may be produced.

College Property- Any real property, including grounds and buildings, structures and facilities, inside and outside, which are owned, rented, or leased, or used under the direction of Northern College.

Smoking- For the purpose of this policy, the burning, exhaling, inhaling, or vaping of any products such as (tobacco or cannabis) or the use of any device, including but not limited to electronic cigarettes, cigarettes, or vaporizers.

Tobacco- shall include pipe tobacco, waterpipe tobacco (also known as shisha), cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, or any other similar product made with or containing tobacco.

Vaping- is defined as inhaling and exhaling the vapour from an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or from a cannabis product.

PRINCIPLES/GUIDELINES

Northern College:

- Complies with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*
- Provides protection from the environmental effects of (second-hand) smoke
- Promotes a smoke-free lifestyle and provides smoking cessation supports
- Facilitates the prevention of smoking uptake
- Prevents potential fire risks
- Provides clean and environmentally friendly campuses

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all members of the College community (staff, students, visitors, and contractors) to observe the Smoke-Free Campus Policy and to remind each other of the Smoke-Free Campus Policy. If difficulties are encountered in obtaining cooperation, Security is to be contacted.

The main focus of policy enforcement will be voluntary compliance through education, signage, and awareness.

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Within the scope of their responsibilities, administrators and campus security, when applicable, have a general duty to ensure policy compliance. They shall work towards ensuring this policy is observed, adhered to, and complied with and shall appropriately address concerns brought to their attention regarding policy violations.

EXCEPTIONS:

Northern College recognizes and accepts that tobacco (sema) is a sacred medicine to indigenous people; and that tobacco and other sacred medicines (sage, sweetgrass, and cedar) are often used in traditional events and ceremonies. The use of tobacco for traditional Indigenous cultural purposes is outlined in the [Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies Administrative Procedure](#).

Northern College will comply with all smoking policies and procedures established by the owners of facilities that are rented or leased by Northern College, policies and procedures established by owners of rented or leased facilities will supersede the Smoke-Free Campus Policy.

Northern College deals with the use of Medical Cannabis on a case-by-case basis and accommodates according to the Ontario Human Rights Code. All employee accommodations for medical cannabis can be directed to the Human Resources department at hr@northern.on.ca. All student accommodations for medical cannabis can be directed to the Accessibility department on each campus.

NON-COMPLIANCE IMPLICATIONS:

The success of this policy depends upon obtaining and maintaining the willingness, understanding, and cooperation of persons who smoke as well as those who do not smoke. It is the responsibility of all members of the College community to observe the Smoke-Free Campus Policy.

Violators of the Smoking Restrictions Policy, both staff and students, will be dealt with in a progressive disciplinary and corrective manner, consistent with college procedures and practices and the student code of conduct. Visitors who violate the Smoking Restrictions Policy may be removed from the property owned, rented, or leased by Northern College.

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REFERENCES:

[Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies Administrative Procedure #F-1](#)
[Smoke Free Ontario Act](#)
[Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
[Bill 36: Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act](#)

APPROVED BY PRESIDENT

Mitch Dumas

June 26, 2025

Date

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