
POLICY FOR A SMOKE-FREE COLLEGE

Adopted: November 27, 2017

Effective: January 1, 2018
Amended: November 25, 2020

1. PURPOSE

The promotion and cultivation of long-term health and well-being for all is one of Dawson College’s principal values and, as such, the College recognizes the importance of protecting its community members by reducing exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke, reducing social exposure to smoking, and ensuring a safer, healthier and cleaner campus. This policy addresses the health issues posed by the incidence of smoking among young adults and by the exposure to tobacco smoke of smokers and non-smokers alike. To that end, the College is dedicated to creating a smoke-free environment on its entire campus and during academic activities that occur off the campus. To accompany this measure, the College will implement an education campaign to promote the benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle and will provide support to students and employees should they choose to quit smoking.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Policy is subject to the following laws or policies:
Loi concernant la lutte contre le tabagisme (CQLR c. L-6.2)
La Politique de lutte contre le tabagisme dans les établissements d’enseignement collégial et universitaire (MSSS)
La loi encadrant le cannabis (CQLR c C-5.3)

3. DEFINITIONS

Person:

- any individual present on the campus of Dawson College, including students, employees, visitors and contractors.

Campus of Dawson College:

- includes all the buildings, outbuildings, and grounds that comprise the College;
- temporary structures and shelters on the College’s grounds;
- any vehicle parked on the College’s grounds.

Third-hand smoke:

- the residual nicotine and other chemicals left on indoor surfaces by tobacco smoke.

Tobacco and Related Products:

- includes tobacco; cannabis (marijuana), its preparations and derivatives; or any similar product that is burned, vaporized or inhaled;
- any electronic cigarette or any other device of that nature, that is used to inhale any substance that may or may not contain nicotine, including marijuana;
- paraphernalia, components, accessories designed to aid in the inhalation of tobacco or marijuana smoke; or

- any other product considered to be tobacco under a government regulation.

Cannabis:

- Drug produced from the plant bearing the same name, which can be used in different forms such as dried cannabis, cannabis oil or fresh cannabis.

Academic activity that takes place off the campus:

- any activity undertaken by a student to fulfill an academic requirement at the College.

4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy shall apply to all persons anywhere on the campus of Dawson College and during academic activities that occur off the campus.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 Subject to articles 5.2 and 5.3, all persons are prohibited from using tobacco, cannabis and related products anywhere on the campus of Dawson College.

5.2 Members of the College's First Peoples communities shall be allowed to use tobacco as part of ceremonial activities organized through the First Peoples' Centre, as permitted by the laws and regulations regarding tobacco use.

5.3 Students in the Professional Theatre Program shall be permitted, in the course of theatrical productions, to use paraphernalia that simulates smoking.

5.4 All persons are prohibited from using tobacco and related products during academic activities that take place off the campus of Dawson College, except with the consent of the teacher or other activity leader.

5.5 The sale or promotion of tobacco, cannabis and related products is prohibited on the campus of Dawson College. The disposal of all tobacco, cigarette butts and cannabis products or any accessories associated with these products is prohibited on the campus of Dawson College.

5.6 The College shall provide educational programming to make students and employees aware of the health dangers from smoking and to promote the benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle.

5.7 The College shall provide support and services to students and employees who are smokers and who wish to quit smoking.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Director General

- Responsible for the application of this policy
- Reports to the Board of Governors every 2 years on the application of the policy

- Sends, within 60 days of his presentation to the Board of Governors, the report to the Ministry of Health and Social Services

6.2 Director of Facilities Management

- Ensures that the laws pertaining to this policy are enforced
- Ensures that the signage is in line with the recommendations set forth in the law
- Applies any appropriate sanctions to contractors or visitors that are caught smoking

6.3 Director of Human Resources

- Informs all new employees of the existence of this policy
- Makes the policy accessible to all employees
- Ensures that the necessary support is offered to employees who may wish to quit smoking and direct them to appropriate resources
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle and a smoke-free environment through different activities such as promotional or sensitizing campaigns
- Applies any appropriate sanctions to employees that are caught smoking

6.4 Director of Student Services

- Informs all new students of the existence of this policy
- Makes the policy accessible to all students
- Ensures that the necessary support is offered to students who may wish to quit smoking and direct them to appropriate resources
- Organizes activities and promotional campaigns and provides the necessary support to students who wish to quit smoking through Health Services
- Applies any appropriate sanctions to students that are caught smoking

7. ENFORCEMENT

7.1 Any student who contravenes this policy shall be subject to the following sanctions:

- 7.1.1 First offence : written warning
- 7.1.2 Second offence: 25\$
- 7.1.3 Third offence: 250\$ fine
- 7.1.4 Fourth offence: suspension from the college
- 7.1.5 Fifth offence: expulsion from the college

Note: The money collected from the fines will be used for sensitizing campaigns and activities promoting well-being and a smoke-free lifestyle.

7.2 Any employee who contravenes this policy, shall be referred to their manager and Human Resources for appropriate follow-up.

7.3 Any visitor or contractor who contravenes this policy shall face appropriate action.

8. FINAL PROVISIONS

8.1 This policy shall be approved by the Board of Governors and shall replace all previous policies or guidelines pertaining to smoking on the campus of Dawson College and during academic activities that occur off the campus. It shall come into effect on January 1, 2018.

8.2 In accordance with the Tobacco Control Act, the Director General shall report to the Board of Governors every two years on the application of the policy. The College shall send the report to the Minister of Health and Social Services within 60 days of submitting it to the Board.

8.3 This policy shall be reviewed every two years from the date of its implementation.