



Tobacco and Smoking Policy

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INTRODUCTION

Brock University is committed to the prevention of illness and injury through the provision and maintenance of healthy and safe conditions on its premises and due diligence in its activities. The University endeavours to provide a hazard free environment and minimize risks by adherence to all relevant legislation, and where appropriate, through the development and implementation of additional internal standards, programs and procedures.

Brock University requires that health and safety be a primary objective in every area of operation, on or off campus, and that all persons using University premises or participating in University-sponsored activities comply with all relevant procedures, regulations, and standards relating to health and safety.

The University recognizes tobacco as an addictive substance and is committed to deliver programs and education aimed at providing protection from environmental (second-hand) tobacco smoke while providing support for those with tobacco addictions and for smoking cessation where possible.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide protection from environmental (second-hand) tobacco smoke
- Communicate smoking and tobacco product restrictions
- Recognize that tobacco is an addictive substance, and provide support to persons with nicotine addictions
- Promote a smoke-free lifestyle and smoking cessation
- Facilitate the prevention of smoking uptake
- Prevent potential fire risks

SCOPE

This policy applies to Brock University employees, students, visitors, contractors and BUSU representatives and employees, on all Brock owned or leased property. All events, including conferences hosted on property owned, rented or leased by Brock University located on or off campus are subject to this policy.

Brock University recognizes and accepts that some traditional aboriginal events or ceremonies involve the use of smudge sticks or other materials as provided under the Ontario Tobacco Control Act, 1994.

This policy is intended to complement, not detract from any other agreements or policies in place at the University. Where this policy disagrees with collective or other existing agreements, the agreements will take precedence over this policy.

DEFINITION

"Smoking" is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other apparatus used to smoke tobacco or any other materials.

POLICY TENETS

1. Smoking at Brock University is prohibited except in outdoor Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs) which are specifically identified by signature signage. This includes all properties owned, rented or leased by Brock University. Smoking areas will include seating and waste receptacles and will be located, where possible, where some shelter from the elements is present. Smokers are expected to use the cigarette waste receptacles provided. Failure to keep these spaces clean may result in removal of the area from the list of DSAs.
2. Designated smoking areas, are selected by the Office of Environment, Health and Safety and endorsed by the University Joint Health and Safety Committee. DSAs must be located 5 meters away from building entranceways and operable windows, and 9 meters away from air intake vents, loading docks and flammable or combustible materials. These restrictions may be expanded for any special or environmental concern.
3. The promotion, advertising, and sale of tobacco products and/or tobacco-related paraphernalia is prohibited in any buildings owned, rented or leased by Brock University.
4. BUSU and its employees, Brock University and its employees and retailers operating in buildings owned, rented or leased by Brock University are prohibited from entering into contractual agreements with tobacco companies or companies that promote tobacco. Requests for exemptions related to academic research must be approved by the Research Ethics board.
5. Corporate tobacco sponsorship of events or groups operating in buildings owned, rented or leased by Brock University is not permitted.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

Brock University has a community-based security environment, which makes it the responsibility of everyone associated with the University to uphold and communicate this policy. For example, smokers are expected to use the designated smoking areas (DSAs) and everyone is encouraged to direct non-compliant smokers towards the nearest DSA. In the event of unresolved compliance issues using the above approach, the following protocol should be followed:

Students: Formal complaints shall be lodged with either the individual responsible for compliance in a particular area or with Campus Security Services. Every reasonable effort to resolve the complaint and ensure compliance will be taken. Students who continue to violate this policy after every reasonable effort has been exhausted, shall be reported to the Student Conduct and Activities Officer and subject to discipline under the University's Student Code of Conduct.

Employees: The very nature of a university fosters collegiality and relies to a great extent on operating in an environment of trust. Accordingly, everyone is trusted to operate within the confines of this policy. Non-compliance concerns should be lodged with either the individual responsible for a particular area, the individual's immediate supervisor or with Campus Security Services.