

Algoma University

Smoking Policy

Category: Health and Safety

Number: HS4

Responsibility: Director of Ancillary Operations

Approval: December 1, 2009

Purpose

The Algoma University endeavors to provide a safe and healthy environment for work and study. The University recognizes scientific research indicating that smoking is harmful to one's health and to the health of others through second-hand tobacco smoke.

The University also recognizes tobacco as an addictive substance and is committed to delivering programs and education aimed at providing protection from tobacco smoke pollution while providing support for those with tobacco addictions and for smoking cessation.

The objective of this policy is to uphold the Algoma University's commitment to provide a safe, clean and healthy smoke-free environment for the University community. Algoma University's Smoking/Tobacco Policy will compliment the Ontario government's Smoke- Free Ontario Act 2005, which prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces, company vehicles and enclosed public places.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the Algoma University community, students, faculty, staff, contractors, visitors and guests. All events, including conferences and private rental functions, hosted on University property are subject to this policy.

"Despite prohibition from smoking in an enclosed workplace or enclosed public place, an Aboriginal person has the right to use tobacco for traditional Aboriginal cultural or spiritual purposes." (The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, May 31, 2006).

Algoma University recognizes and accepts that tobacco (sema) is a sacred medicine to Anishinaabe 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 Aboriginal cultural or spiritual purposes may take the following forms: in pipe ceremonies by pipe carriers; in smudging ceremonies where tobacco may be used with the other sacred Aboriginal medicines such as sage, sweetgrass, or cedar.

The use of tobacco products for other cultural, ethnic or spiritual purposes will also be permitted.

Such events shall receive event-specific exemption to the no-smoking policy provided that the proposed events are otherwise in compliance with current legislation. Notice must be posted to advise the campus community when and where ceremonies (which include the use of traditional Anishinaabe pipes and/or smudging with the sacred medicines) will be present in an otherwise restricted area.

Policy

1. All internal locations on university or shared property will be smoke free. This include the Residences as well as the Campus Centre (Speak Easy)
2. Smoking will be strictly limited to labeled outdoor Designated Smoking Areas (DSA).

Definitions

“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.

DSA- Designated Smoking Areas – allowable areas which are at least 15 m from entrances or ventilation system

Procedures

(1) Signage: Appropriate signage announcing this policy will be placed at entrances to buildings and at other locations as deemed necessary. The Physical Plant Department will arrange for such signage

(2) Facilities: The Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) will have appropriate signage and will be supplied with appropriate disposal receptacles. These receptacles must be used in order to keep the grounds litter free and safe. If a particular area is not kept clean, it may result in its revocation as a permissible smoking area.

The University will designate the following areas as DSA's - Campus Centre Patio, Residence Quad area, rear court yard Gazebo. Smoking will also be permitted 15 meters from Doors E, F, G, H, I, R and George Leach Centre exits (limited special events only),

Smoking will not be permitted at entrance Door A,O,P,R, Q,U,W, Z ,George Leach Main Entrance, SASA Lounge, Shipping and Receiving, Maintenance Shop, any other south or west facing exits and mechanically operated windows or intake vents.

(3) Publication: Policy changes will be announced in through normal University Communications. The general policy statement will be included in the University Calendar and will be posted on the University web-site. All prospective students and staff members shall be made aware of the Smoking Policy during the recruitment and orientation process.

(4) Public Events: Organizers and attendees at public events using University facilities, such as conferences, meetings, public lectures, sporting activities, social events and cultural events will be required to comply with the University Smoking Policy. Organizers of such events are responsible for communicating this policy to attendees and for enforcing the policy.

(5) Contracted Services: Business firms with which the University does business on campus- e.g. food service contractors, repair and maintenance services, construction and renovation

companies, etc. - will be informed of the University's Smoking Policy and their employees will be required to comply with it.

(6) Smoking Cessation Programs: Student Services will provide resource materials to students, faculty and staff in order to support their efforts in smoking cessation. Faculty and staff members should contact Student Services & Human Resources for information on smoking cessation products/initiatives associated with the University's employee benefit programs.

(7) Sale: The selling of tobacco products on campus is prohibited.

(8) Exceptions: Exceptions to this Policy may be made by to accommodate the use of tobacco or related substances in connection with culturally significant celebrations formally conducted on campus.

Compliance

This Policy applies to all members of the University community while on campus and its success will depend on the co-operation and compliance on the part of all members.

Security will be responsible to enforce this Policy and report violations to the Divisional Director of Ancillary Operations. Fines will be processed by the administration office.

Students found to be in violation of this Policy will be assessed a fine in the amount of \$25.00 for first offence – then doubled each time after that to a maximum of \$100. Upon the third violation the student will be dealt with under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures.

Failure to pay such fine on the part of a student will result in it being added to his or her Student Account.

Employee infractions will be referred to the Human Resources Department for appropriate disciplinary action in accordance to their respective collective agreements under Disciplinary Action. All other employees will be issued sanctions in accordance with the Employment Standards Act including, but not limited to, warnings, suspension and dismissal.

Visitors will be issued a warning. Repeat offenders will be required to meet with the University Director of Ancillary Operations

Contact and Review

Questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this Policy should be referred to the Director of Ancillary Services, the Director of Human Resources or the Student Services Advisor.

Universities with Smoking Policies

Bishop's University

Non-Smoking Policy, effective June 1, 2006
<http://www.ubishops.ca/administration/smoking.htm>

Brock University

Tobacco and Smoking Policy, issue date June 23, 2005
http://www.brocku.ca/oehs/images/Tobacco_and_Smoking_Policy_2005.pdf

Carleton University

Smoking on Campus Policy, effective August 1, 2006
<http://www.carleton.ca/secretariat/policies/Smoking%20Policy.htm>

Dalhousie University

Non-Smoking Policy, effective Sept 1, 2003
http://environmentalhealthandsafetyoffice.dal.ca/radiatio_3443.html

Lakehead University

Health and Safety: Smoking on Premises Policy, effective July 1, 2005
<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=57>

Laurentian University

Non-smoking Policy, undated
http://laurentian.ca/vpacademic/POLICIES/smoking_non.pdf

McGill University

Smoking Policy, effective May 31, 2006
<http://www.mcgill.ca/adminhandbook/policies/smoking/>

Nipissing University

Smoking Policy, effective 2004-2007
<http://www.nipissingu.ca/administration/SmokingPolicy.asp>

University of Lethbridge

Campus Smoking Policy, effective May 20, 2004
<http://www.uleth.ca/policymanual/policyview?id=308#3>

University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Campus Smoking Policy, approved December 19, 2005
<http://www.uoit.ca/EN/main/11259/11270/16583/16590/smokingpolicy.html>

University of Ottawa

Smoking on University Premises, effective date June 1, 2006
<http://web5.uottawa.ca/admingov/reg-e.php?id=58>

University of Western Ontario

Policy on Smoking, effective June 24, 2003
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/mapp/section1/mapp116.pdf>

Wilfrid Laurier University

Smoking Policy, effective July 1, 2002
http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=158&p=2194