

<b>TOBACCO AND VAPOUR FREE SCHOOLS POLICY</b>	
Minister Approval: 	Effective Date: August 8, 2019

### GENERAL INFORMATION

For clarity, this policy includes both tobacco and vapour products in the definition of smoking.

The Government of Yukon is committed to helping people quit smoking and quit using vapour products, and to supporting children and adolescents so that they do not start smoking. This includes promoting smoking prevention and cessation in Yukon schools and emphasizing the benefits of physical activity in maintaining tobacco and vapour-free lifestyles.

Under the *Smoke Free Places Act* no person shall smoke in an elementary or secondary school, and no person shall smoke or use tobacco on the grounds of a school.

Nothing in the *Smoke Free Places Act* or this policy affects the rights of Indigenous people respecting traditional Indigenous spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction regarding smoking, including both tobacco and vapour products, on school grounds and during school-related activities.

### DEFINITIONS

"E-cigarette" means a product or device, whether or not it resembles a cigarette, capable of vapourizing an e-substance for inhalation or release into the air;

"E-substance" means a solid, liquid or gas that, on being heated, produces a vapour for use in an e-cigarette, regardless of whether the solid, liquid or gas contains nicotine.

'School Administrator' means the principal, vice-principal or other identified school staff as appropriate.

'Smoke' and 'smoking' means to smoke, hold, or otherwise have control over an ignited tobacco or in-use vapour product (including an electronic nicotine delivery system).

'Tobacco Product' means a product manufactured from tobacco and intended to be smoked or consumed in a smokeless form, including an electronic nicotine delivery system.

"Vapour product" means the following:

- a) an e-cigarette;
- b) an e-substance;
- c) a cartridge for or a component of an e-cigarette.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Department of Education supports:

1. The prohibition against smoking on school grounds in the Yukon that is set out in the Smoke Free Places Act.
2. The rights of Indigenous people respecting traditional Indigenous spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies taking place on school grounds or during school-related activities.
3. The promotion of healthy lifestyles, including the reduction and elimination of smoking.
4. The provision of effective educational programs and positive role modelling for students about smoking.
5. Ensuring that school administrators play an active role in advising students and teachers of laws and policies regarding smoking and vaping.
6. The establishment of school-based rules and policies dealing with:
  - a) students leaving school grounds during school hours;
  - b) the creation of a smoke-free zone extending a reasonable distance from school property;
  - c) the confiscation of vapour or tobacco products found on students, and;
  - d) progressive discipline for repeated violations of school-based rules and policies.

Nothing in this policy affects the rights of Indigenous people respecting traditional Indigenous spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

## **Standards and Procedures**

- A. Smoking is not permitted in school facilities, on school grounds, in vehicles transporting students to and from school-related activities, or during school-related activities.
- B. Students, staff, and members of the public are expected to observe school-based rules and policies regarding smoking at all times, and to fully comply with the requirements of this policy.
- C. School-based rules and policies regarding smoking will be posted in conspicuous places in each school and on each school ground, on school websites, and will be communicated to user groups that request permission to use school facilities.
- D. School administrators may implement comprehensive smoking cessation programs in their school, and may request the assistance of the Department of Health and Social Services when doing so.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of school administrators and school-based staff to ensure that the requirements of this policy are known and adhered to in Yukon schools and during school-related activities.

School Councils are responsible for working with school administrators and staff to approve and implement school-based rules and policies regarding the prohibition of smoking on school grounds.

## **APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all Yukon schools.

## **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, a decision may be based on the individual merits and justice of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.



## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy is effective August 8, 2019

## **LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFERENCES**

Education Act, ss. 4 (a) (vi) and (g)

Smoke Free Places Act

Yukon Education 'Substance Abuse Policy'

Yukon Tobacco Reduction Strategy.

## **HISTORY**

Tobacco-Free Schools Policy, effective November 15, 2005; amended effective June 2, 2008; amended effective July 1, 2015; amended effective August 8, 2019.