



OFFICIAL COLLEGE POLICY

THE PREVENTION OF TOBACCO USE ON CAMPUS

Approved by Management Executive Committee: November 14, 2017
Approved by Vanier College Board of Directors: November 21, 2017

1. CONTEXT

Medical evidence clearly demonstrates that smoking is a health hazard. Research shows that second-hand smoke can also be harmful to non-smokers.

On November 26th 2015, in its continued efforts to reduce the prevalence of chronic illness and premature death resulting from smoking, the government of Quebec made changes to the Tobacco Control Act. It introduced new measures to: protect young people and prevent them from taking up tobacco; protect the public from the dangers of second-hand smoke; and encourage quitting smoking. One of these measures involves the creation of smoke-free environments on college and university campuses across the province. This measure is founded on research showing that exposure to adults and peers who smoke is linked to increased risk of smoking initiation and reduced odds of quitting among young adults and teens. By reducing exposure to the act of smoking, smoke-free spaces will facilitate the quitting and as such will remain smoke-free, to protect individuals from second hand smoke and influence social norms surrounding smoking.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to provide a smoke-free environment for the Vanier College (hereafter “the College”) community in accordance with the law and the orientations issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The law requires colleges and universities in Quebec to adopt a policy that will:

- provide a complete smoke-free environment for all;
- promote non-tobacco use; and
- provide support to anyone in the community who is seeking to quit smoking.

3. DEFINITIONS

Person: Any physical or moral person who attends the College, including without limitation students, employees, visitors and contractors;

Building: Any building, place or enclosed area in a building under the responsibility of the College, including without limitation classroom, office and study area;

Field: Any outdoor space under the responsibility of the College, including without limitation sports field such as football or soccer fields and spectator areas;

Tobacco products: Includes any product containing tobacco, electronic cigarettes and any other devices of that nature that are put to one’s mouth to inhale any substance that may or may not contain nicotine, including their components and accessories, and any other product or class of product considered to be tobacco under a government regulation.

4. Scope

This policy applies to students, faculty, staff as well as contractors and visitors of the College. As of the beginning of the Fall 2018 semester, the College will become a smoke-free environment; the use of tobacco products will no longer be permitted in any building or on any of the grounds of the College.

5. POLICY AND SIGNAGE

5.1. It is strictly prohibited for any Person to use Tobacco products on all college grounds.

This includes:

- all buildings;
- parking lots;
- fields;
- all campus sports fields including the spectator's area, the Daycare or areas used by the Early Childhood Education program where young children may be present;
- any temporary or permanent installation on campus;
- any College vehicle

5.2. To promote a tobacco free lifestyle, the College undertakes to launch an annual smoke-free campaign on campus in collaboration with the College's Student Association. The college will also encourage the promotion of existing campaigns and support internal prevention-promotion initiatives.

5.3. The College will promote existing services aimed at helping people to stop smoking and will provide resources/support services to members of the College's Community who are seeking to stop using tobacco products.

5.4. It is strictly prohibited to sell tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or promote tobacco products on College premises.

5.5. The College will install signage across campus informing the community and visitors about the policy.

6. SANCTIONS

Offenders will face the possibility of disciplinary action from the College.

- A verbal warning will be given for a first offence;
- A written warning will be given for a second offence;
- The College reserves the right to proceed with further disciplinary measures for repeat offenders in accordance with the College's Code of Conduct.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SUPPORT

Administrative Services is responsible for enforcing the policy through Security Services.

Student Services, in collaboration with the Department of Communications and Corporate Affairs undertakes to launch an annual anti-smoking campaign on campus in collaboration with the College's Student Association.

The Department of Communications and Corporate Affairs, in collaboration with Human Resource Services and Student Services will promote existing quit services and programs and will provide resources/support to members of the College's Community who are seeking to stop using tobacco products.

The Department of Communications and Corporate Affairs will publicise the policy and ensure that all employees, students as well as contractors and visitors are made aware of it while the Department of Administrative Services will be responsible for installing and maintaining proper signage.

The Department of Communications and Corporate Affairs will compile the monitoring data, write a report and submit it to the Board of Directors every two years regarding the application of the policy.

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION

Department of Corporate Affairs and Communications is responsible for implementing the policy.

This policy will replace all previous policies and guidelines regarding smoking on College property.

As requested by the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services, the College will report to the Board of Directors every two years regarding the application of this policy and how it is being enforced across campus. The College will then transmit this report to the Minister's office within 60 days of its filing to the Board.

The College is committed to taking a survey in order to gauge tobacco use on campus before and after the implementation of this policy in order to evaluate its application and effectiveness.

The College will review the policy on an annual basis

DATE OF NEXT POLICY REVISION: September 2019.

This Policy replaces the previous Policy entitled: No Smoking.