

NLSchools refers to all public K-12 English schools and school related facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Education Operations Branch and all employees working therein providing services and supports to such schools, including those who work in the areas of school facilities, student transportation, program implementation, student services, and procurement.

Policy Name

Cannabis and Smoke Free

Policy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to providing students, staff and other members of the school community with a healthy school environment. In accordance with the [Smoke-free Environment Act, 2005](#), the [Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act](#) and the [Control and Sale of Cannabis Act](#) smoking, smokeless tobacco or any product that mimics tobacco, are not permitted in schools or other school-related facilities, on school-related property, in NLSchools vehicles or in other modes of transportation used to transport students. This includes the smoking (or consumption) of cannabis or other substances which may be illegal; cause impairment; or be dangerous to the health of students and staff.

This Cannabis and Smoke Free policy is part of a comprehensive approach to the creation and maintenance of a healthy school environment.

Background

Tobacco is an addictive substance. Smoking any substance (including cannabis); exposure to second-hand smoke, and the use of smokeless tobacco are known to cause serious health issues. Permitting smoking and tobacco use on school and school-related property conflicts with prevention messages taught in the curriculum. Further, current legislation limits access and the sale of cannabis and tobacco products to youth.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a smoke-free learning environment and workplace for students, staff and volunteers; and,
- Assist students in making healthy choices.

Scope

This policy applies to all:

- Schools and schools and school-related facilities within NLSchools;
- Properties, including parking lots;
- Vehicles parked on school and school related facilities parking lots; and,
- Vehicles, including school buses and all other vehicles owned, contracted, leased or used for the purpose of transporting students.

Definitions

Tobacco

For the purpose of this policy, tobacco includes:

- Lit or unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, or clove cigarette;
- Smoking products and smokeless tobacco including spit tobacco, dip, chew and snuff in any form; and,
- Products (current and future) that mimic tobacco use (e.g., electronic cigarettes/ vaping).

Cannabis and Cannabis-containing Substances

Actual plant material from the Cannabis plant containing, or thought to contain, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), including marijuana, hashish and/or hashish oil.

Cannabis- containing substances may include oils, ointments, or a wide variety of edible products.

Policy Directives

1. All schools, school-related facilities, worksites, associated grounds, NLSchools vehicles, and all modes of transportation when used to transport students will be cannabis and smoke free at all times.
2. All school and NLSchools sponsored events, on and off school property, will be cannabis and smoke free.
3. Community users of school and school-related facilities must abide by this policy.
4. The School Facilities Division, Transportation and Infrastructure, will ensure appropriate signage is in place to inform students, staff and members of the public that smoking is prohibited at all schools and school related facilities and properties.
5. The school administrator or designate will also communicate to students, school

staff, parents or guardians and other visitors to the school that cannabis and smoking is prohibited. Such communication may include signage, notices in school handbooks, newsletter inserts, webpage highlights and announcements at school events.

6. Distribution, consumption or sale of cannabis and tobacco products including smoking devices (e.g., electronic cigarettes) is not permitted.
7. The advertising and sponsoring of school-related initiatives by cannabis and tobacco companies is not permitted.
8. Clothing, bags, hats and other personal items used or worn by students, staff and volunteers to display, promote or advertise cannabis and tobacco products are not permitted.
9. Schools should make information available to students and staff on smoking cessation programs (e.g., [Provincial Smokers' Helpline](#)) and other resources. Additional information can be accessed from the [Alliance for the Control of Tobacco](#).
10. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary repercussions.