

Key Messages

- Since **August 1, 2018**, the University of Regina has prohibited smoking or use of tobacco products – including recreational cannabis (marijuana), smoking and vaping – in any University owned or leased building, on leased or owned University property, in University vehicles, or vehicles parked on University leased or owned property.
- The University transitioned to a completely smoke-free campus in 2018.
- The Smoke-Free Campus Policy also includes the “Cannabis on Campus” Appendix A which addresses the responsible use of cannabis on campus. The *Research with Cannabis Policy* RCH-020-015 governs the responsible use of cannabis in research.
- We are committed to providing a safe and healthy place in which to study, work, visit, and live.
- We recognize the health hazards posed by the use of tobacco products and exposure to second-hand smoke.
- We recognize that smoking is an addiction and we encourage students and employees to access the smoking cessation programs available to them.
- Tobacco is an integral part of cultural ceremonies and requests for guidance, knowledge or knowledge sharing, therefore it may be burned on campus in accordance with GOV-040-020 *Smudging/Pipe Ceremonies Policy*. Smoking or tobacco products used for research purposes, other than Indigenous cultural practices, require a written exception request to this policy made to the Director, Health, Safety and Wellness.
- Cannabis may be used or grown for teaching and research purposes where the research meets all regulatory requirements and approvals, and where appropriate protections for health and safety are in place, in accordance with RCH-020-015 *Research with Cannabis Policy*.

Q&A: Smoke-Free Campus Policy

What is the history of the University's Smoke-Free Campus policy?

The University became smoke-free and tobacco-free on August 1, 2018. This continued the transition to a smoke-free campus that started in 2017 by reducing designated smoking areas from 19 to 3 locations. The Smoke-Free Campus Policy also prohibits smoking and vaping of cannabis (marijuana) on campus.

If recreational use of cannabis is legal, why can't it be smoked or vaped on campus?

Although cigarettes are legal, we don't want anyone to smoke or vape tobacco on our campus. It is the same with cannabis.

Why did the University make this change?

We are committed to providing a safe, healthy and clean place in which to study, work, visit, and live. We recognize the health hazards posed by exposure to second-hand smoke and tobacco use. Our move to smoke-free is aligned with that commitment.

Why is the University doing this?

We know smoking and second-hand smoke are public health hazards. "Well-Being and Belonging" is one of our strategic areas of focus. Our smoke-free campus policy puts a greater emphasis on our shared responsibility for the quality of air that we breathe and on providing a clean environment. We also know from the Canadian Cancer Society that policies for 100% smoke-free campuses not only provide protection from the cancer risks of second-hand smoke, but also discourage tobacco use among young people.

Are there any spaces on campus where smoking is allowed?

No. There are no Designated Smoking Areas on the U of R campus.

What about people who live on campus? Where will they smoke?

Our residences are included in our smoke-free campus without exception. We believe there are many students – including residents – who prefer to live in an environment of a completely smoke-free campus.

Was there consultation on this policy?

We began researching the issue of smoking in post-secondary institutions in May 2016. A working group doing this research was formed by Health, Safety and Wellness and included broad cross-campus representation from: Facilities Management, Student Affairs, URSU, External Relations, and Residence Services. Their work included an environmental scan of other post-secondary institutions to determine their practices and policies regarding smoking on campus.

The policy also reflects societal norms which are shifting away from smoking. This was further

emphasized by the City of Regina's research in 2017 that supported their decision to go no smoking.

As well, research from the Canadian Cancer Society shows that policies for 100% smoke-free campuses not only provide protection from the cancer risks of second-hand smoke, but also discourage tobacco use among young people. We are also part of a growing momentum toward a healthier campus environment. According to the [Canadian Cancer Society](#), in 2018, there were 65 universities and colleges in Canada that had already adopted such a policy, and more were in the process of doing so.

How will you enforce the smoke-free campus policy?

All faculty, staff and students are expected to comply with University policy. We will continue to focus our efforts on promoting a culture change to one of clean air and a clean environment. We promote our smoke-free campus through awareness, education, respect, peer-to-peer encouragement, and support. Our main focus is on voluntary compliance through education, signage, and awareness. We believe that's the kind of campus and approach that works best for everyone – both smokers and non-smokers.

How will students and employees be treated if caught smoking on campus?

We expect everyone – smokers and non-smokers – to be courteous and respectful. We recognize that tobacco smoking is an addiction and many people would like to quit.

Cessation assistance is available to those who wish to quit. We want to encourage a culture change – through awareness, education, respect, peer-to-peer encouragement, and support – to one of clean air and a clean environment.

What will you do to help people quit?

We hope everyone who wants to will take advantage of the smoking cessation assistance available to faculty and staff as well as students. The Pension and Benefits Unit of Human Resources can assist University employees in determining coverage for smoking cessation aids. Students can contact the University of Regina Students' Union to determine their coverage for smoking cessation aids.

Smoking Cessation Information

- Employees: Contact Human Resources to find out about benefits coverage for smoking cessation programs. Please contact Angela.Rensby@uregina.ca or call 306-585-4167. Additional resources/benefits information can be found on the Sun Life website at www.sunlife.ca/uregina.
- Students: Contact the University of Regina Students' Union to find out about coverage for smoking cessation programs. Call 306-586-8811 or visit www.ursu.ca

Why is there an exception for Indigenous ceremonies?

Our policy, similar to the City of Regina policy, recognizes that tobacco is an integral part of cultural ceremonies, cultural research and requests for guidance, knowledge or knowledge sharing; therefore it may be burned on campus in accordance with our existing policy on Smudging/Pipe Ceremonies GOV-040-020.

Are there any other exceptions?

An exception may be granted for research purposes, other than Indigenous cultural practices. Researchers will be required to make a written request for exemption to the Director of Health, Safety and Wellness. For exceptions relating to research with cannabis, refer to the [Research with Cannabis policy \(RCH-020-015\)](#).

Can I tell someone to butt out if they are smoking?

We ask people to be respectful if they choose to inform smokers about the policy or to offer support for smoking cessation programs. This is part of raising awareness.

How do I report someone smoking?

You can call Campus Security at 306-585-4999.

Will smoking be allowed at the Owl on the deck or the sidewalk?

No, our policy is consistent with the City of Regina policy which doesn't allow smoking on decks. We want to encourage clean air in a clean environment, regardless of the building or purpose.

Why can't I smoke outside while I'm watching a soccer or football game?

Our policy is consistent with the City of Regina policy which doesn't allow smoking on or near sport fields or near children.

Why can't I smoke in my car on campus?

We want to encourage clean air and a healthy environment everywhere on our campus. People sitting in smoke-filled cars are exposed to second hand smoke. And those leaving a smoke-filled car can affect the air quality of those next to them, or often choose to butt out their cigarettes on the ground outside the car. We are trying to discourage this activity.

What are other universities doing?

In 2017, our committee conducted an environmental scan of other universities that showed we were leading or in the middle of the pack in terms of how Universities are dealing with smoking on campus.

In September 2018, the [Canadian Cancer Society reported](#) that there were 65 universities and colleges in Canada that had adopted a smoke-free campus policy. In the US, about 2,000 campuses are 100 per cent smoke-free.

Q&A: Cannabis (Marijuana) on Campus

How did the University respond to the federal legislation legalizing recreational use of marijuana?

The University amended its smoking policy to move to a completely smoke-free campus as of August 1, 2018. This includes cannabis smoking and vaping. We also added a “Cannabis on Campus” appendix to the Smoke-Free Campus policy which addresses the responsible use of cannabis on campus.

Under the Policy and Appendix, growing cannabis plants is prohibited in all University buildings owned or leased, including University residences; and on outdoor University property.

Why can't we grow cannabis plants in our residences?

Growing cannabis plants will not be allowed in our residences due to impact on resources such as water and electricity, and the risk of fire from heaters, humidity generators, and grow lights.

How was this decision made?

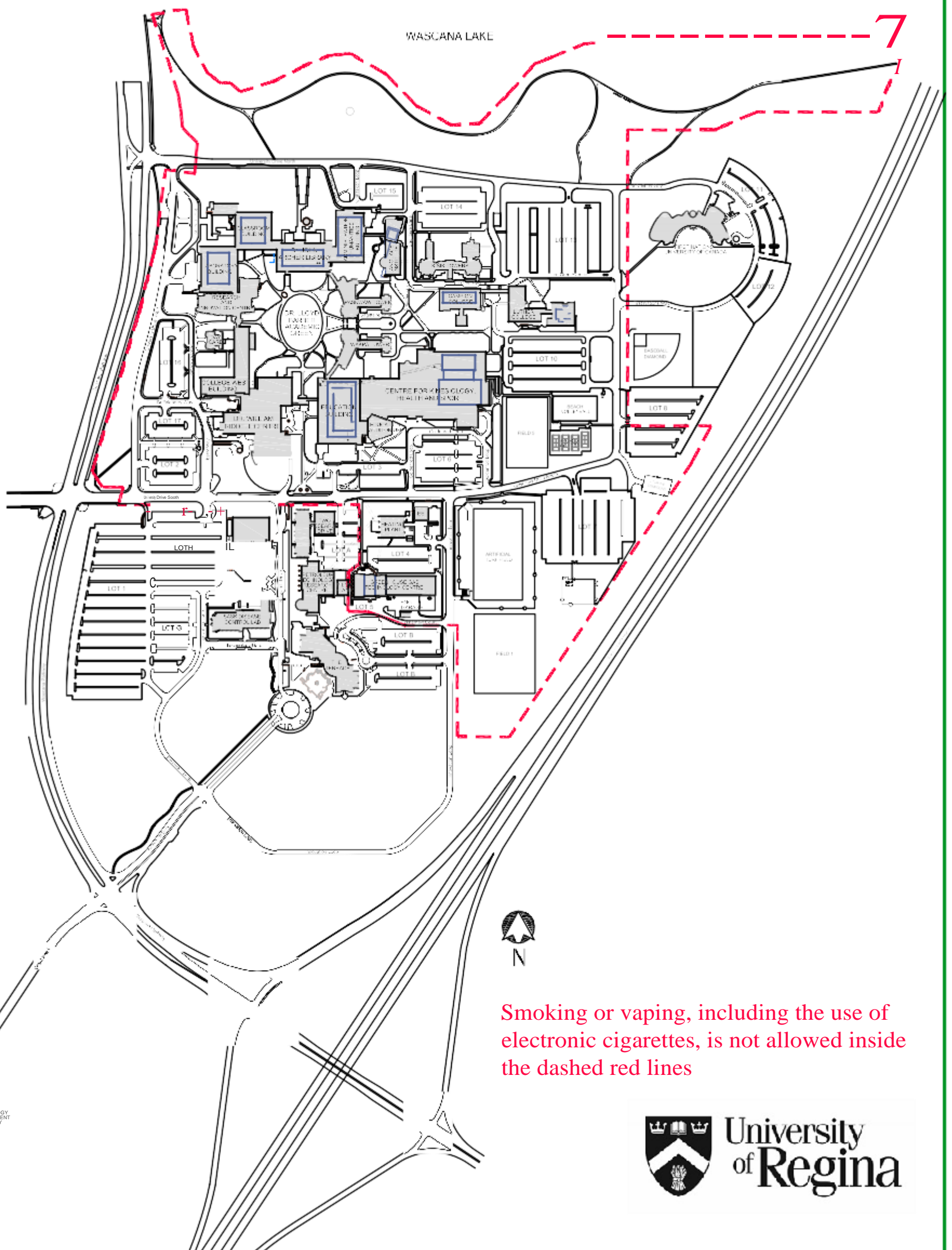
The Marijuana Legalization Working Group was formed in January 2018 to gather information and identify any potential impacts from the legislation that needed to be addressed. The working group provided recommendations to the University's leadership team which ultimately decided that the time was right to move to a completely smoke-free campus.

Who was on this committee?

The committee was chaired by HR's Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness and included representatives from Student Affairs, Housing, University Governance, External Relations, the Students' Union, and Campus Security. The committee looked at the federal government policy, what other universities were doing, and considered any impact on our existing and possible new policies, rules, or regulations. They looked at the campus as a whole – inside buildings including residences, as well as outdoors. The committee also talked to students, residents, our Federated College partners, and Innovation Place.

Does the U of R have an impairment policy or a drug and alcohol policy?

No. However, the University does have a fit for duty clause in our Health and Safety Policy, which states: Employees and Students will be fit for duty, which means in a physical, mental and emotional state that enables the employee or student to perform the essential tasks of their work or learning activity in a manner that does not threaten the safety or health of oneself, coworkers, fellow students, property or the public at large.



Smoking or vaping, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is not allowed inside the dashed red lines

