



**One University. One World. Yours.**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Saint Mary's University Student Responsible Use of Cannabis Policy</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b>	6-2018
<b>Origin:</b>	Student Affairs and Services
<b>Approved:</b>	2018-OCT-22
<b>Issuing Authority:</b>	Saint Mary's University Executive Management Group
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Senior Director, Student Affairs and Services
<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Effective Date:</b>	2018-OCT-22

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## **1. Preamble**

- 1.1. The overall aim of the Student Responsible Use of Cannabis Policy is to promote the health, wellness, and safety of all Saint Mary's University students by creating and maintaining a University environment that values, promotes and reinforces responsible use of cannabis. The University strives to create an environment in which those of legal age (19 years and older) who choose to use cannabis, do so safely and responsibly both on and off campus and those who choose not to use cannabis do so without pressure and prejudice.
- 1.2. It is important to note that the Policy recognizes that the appropriate use of cannabis is ultimately the responsibility of the individual. Impairment (acute or residual) in no way releases any individual from full responsibility for their behaviour and its consequences. This policy will also ensure Saint Mary's University's compliance with all applicable cannabis legislation.
- 1.3. All students are responsible and accountable for fostering and maintaining a safe, civilized, and respectful demeanour and environment on campus and while engaged in University activities.
- 1.4. The University endeavors to support the well-being of its students through education, training, supports, and assistance for those students that are adversely affected by cannabis related problems/issues, and stimulating programs that create a positive learning environment.

## 2. Jurisdiction

- 2.1. The Policy applies to all students enrolled and attending Saint Mary's University, including but not limited to, full-time, part-time, undergraduate, graduate, and distance students and those on co-op work terms.
- 2.2. The Policy applies to all Saint Mary's University property and events hosted, sponsored by, controlled by or associated with Saint Mary's University, university travel including, but not limited to travel by sports teams and study, teaching, service-based activities, or research off campus ("SMU Property and Events"). The Policy also extends to private events off campus where the University may have an interest. Although Saint Mary's University cannot monitor the environment off campus, University organizations, teams, clubs or representative individuals will be held responsible for their actions off campus through the Student Code of Conduct Policy or other relevant policies and procedures such as athletics or campus housing related codes of conduct and behaviours.

## 3. Authority

The Senior Director of Student Affairs and Services has been designated by the President as the official of the University responsible for ensuring procedures are in place for student compliance with Legislation as it relates to cannabis.

## 4. Definitions

**Cannabis** – refers to a cannabis plant and any part of a plant whether it is in natural or processed form. It refers to any substance or mixture of substances that contains or has any part of the cannabis plant on or within it. Cannabis is also known by a number of slang terms.

**Legal cannabis** – means cannabis purchased through authorized companies/organizations as recognized by relevant provincial and/or federal legislation.

**Illicit cannabis** means cannabis that is or was sold, produced or distributed by a person prohibited from doing so under any federal, provincial or municipal legislation or that was imported by a person prohibited from doing so by law.

**Medicinal cannabis** is cannabis grown and/or supplied by authorized producers/suppliers in conditions that provide quality controlled cannabis for medical purposes in compliance with the Medical Marihuana Access Regulations (MMPR) and/or other applicable laws.

**Cannabis Accessories** – are anything including rolling papers or wraps, holders, pipes, water pipes, bongs and vaporizers that is represented to be used in the consumption of cannabis or anything to be used in the production of cannabis.

**Saint Mary's Campus** - includes any or all owned, leased, rented or maintained property including but not limited to buildings and grounds. Campus also includes all University owned, leased or rented vehicles.

**Housing** – refers to all on-campus living accommodations that are overseen by Saint Mary’s University. These include Loyola, Vanier and Edmund Rice Residences and all other spaces including food services related spaces used by staff and residence of Student Housing.

**Edibles** - means any products containing cannabis for oral consumption such as eating, drinking, or ingesting and does not include inhaling, vaping, or smoking cannabis.

**Cannabis Legislation** – means applicable law enacted by the Federal Government, Provincial Legislature, Municipal Council as it applies to cannabis, which includes Halifax By-law N-300 (Respecting Nuisances and Smoking), Nova Scotia Smoke Free Places Act, the Cannabis Control Act, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and the Criminal Code of Canada, as amended from time to time.

**Student** - any individual registered in one or more courses at Saint Mary’s University be they graduate or undergraduate, full-time or part time. This includes those who take a course(s) on campus or via distance education, co-op, and study abroad.

## **5. Conditions for Legal Cannabis Use and Prohibitions**

5.1. Saint Mary’s University recognizes that the use of cannabis is ultimately the responsibility of the individual in compliance with cannabis legislation and University policies. As such, students are responsible for knowing, understanding, informing themselves of, and complying with, applicable University and Housing policies, as well as all cannabis legislation. The University reserves the right to restrict the cannabis possession and/or use of any student while on University property.

5.2. Saint Mary’s University is committed to provide a safe and healthy environment for its students. The University recognizes that students who are 19 years of age or older are legally allowed to purchase, grow (off campus and within legislative guidelines) and use legal cannabis. It is Saint Mary’s imperative to make sure that this is done in a safe and informed manner, free of pressure.

5.3. There is very limited permissible use of cannabis under this Policy. Students may use cannabis on SMU Property and Events (see 2.2) if:

- a. the student is at least 19 years of age;
- b. the cannabis is a form of legal cannabis that is legal and legally obtained;
- c. the student does not smoke or vape the cannabis on campus;
- d. the student does not possess or use cannabis in University on Campus Housing.

Students may possess and store legal cannabis for their personal use if it is done within the conditions as outlined within cannabis legislation and University policies such as the Smoke Free Campus and Tobacco Use Policy and Scent Free Environment Polices.

#### 5.4. Prohibitions:

- a. Smoking or vaping cannabis on campus is prohibited. Any student who wishes to smoke or vape cannabis is required to leave the campus. Rules related to use of smoking and vaping are outlined in the Saint Mary's Smoke Free Campus and Tobacco Use Policy and municipal by-laws.
- b. The sale, distribution, growth and preparation of cannabis (indoors or outdoors) by students on the Saint Mary's campus is prohibited.
- c. The use, possession, or sale of illicit cannabis by students is prohibited. It is prohibited under this Policy to use cannabis in a manner that is not permitted by law. This includes use, possession, manufacture, or sale of Cannabis that is not legally obtained, as well as forms of cannabis that are not current legally authorized such as edible forms of cannabis, as well as highly potent forms of cannabis like budder and shatter.
- d. The sale or distribution of cannabis accessories to a student under 19 years of age is prohibited. (As per the Nova Scotia Cannabis Control Act, a person distributing cannabis accessories needs to confirm that a person is 19 years of age or older by seeing valid Canadian government issued ID.)
- e. Advertising or promotion of cannabis or cannabis accessories on the Saint Mary's campus or at any Saint Mary's University affiliated events is prohibited.
- f. Growth on campus, preparation, sale, or distribution of cannabis or related cannabis accessories are not permitted on the Saint Mary's campus or at any Saint Mary's University affiliated events be they on or off campus.
- g. Breach of any cannabis legislation, while on campus or at any Saint Mary's University affiliated events be they on or off campus, including the Nova Scotia Smoke Free Places Act that prohibits use of cannabis in any of the following:
  - i. within 4 metres of windows, air intake vents and entrances to places of employment;
  - ii. on or within 20 metres of playgrounds located in an outdoor public space;
  - iii. on or within 20 metres of a publicly owned sport and recreation event or venue, located in any outdoor public space; and
  - iv. on and within 9 metres of public trails.

## 6. Medicinal Cannabis

### 6.1. The University permits the use of medicinal cannabis when:

- a. the student holds and maintains a valid Proof of Authorization made by a physician with a license to practice medicine in Canada;
- b. the medicinal cannabis is accompanied by the labelled container from the Licensed Producer;
- c. the student is able to store the medicinal cannabis securely while within the University premises; and
- d. the student is able to perform all tasks safely;
- e. the student complies with cannabis Legislation and applicable University policies and procedures including: The Smoke Free and Tobacco Use

Policy, Scent Free Policy, Student Code of Conduct, and Housing and Conference Services policies.

6.2. Any student who has an authorization to use medicinal cannabis and who requests accommodation or variance of the provisions of this Policy is required to make a request in writing and provide a copy of the Proof of Authorization. For students who live in Saint Mary's Housing, that request must be made to the Director of Housing & Conference Services. For all other students, the request for accommodation must be made to the Senior Director of Student Affairs and Services. The University will consider all requests for accommodation on an individualized, case by case basis and may require further information from the treating physician.

6.3. The University is a smoke free campus, with the exception of Indigenous ceremonial purposes, and as such, medical cannabis is not permitted to be smoked on campus property. Students who are authorized to possess medical cannabis should discuss other methods of consuming medical cannabis with their family doctor and advise Student Affairs and Services of any issues.

## **7. Housing**

7.1. All on-campus Housing under control of Saint Mary's University is cannabis-free.

7.2. All students who reside or use Housing or are occasional visitors to Housing are required to comply with the Residence Handbook and its provisions regarding cannabis.

## **8. Breach of Policy**

8.1. Any student who violates this Policy is subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, Residence Code of Conduct, the Residence Handbook, and Residence Agreement and other relevant policies. This disciplinary action could include suspension and expulsion.

8.2. Breach of this Policy by any student group, individual or organization on campus may result in privileges to use University facilities being suspended for a period of time, potential loss or suspension of student organization status, and/or other disciplinary actions.

## **9. Awareness, Education, and Support Services**

9.1. Programming efforts will be designed to promote and maintain the health and safety of Saint Mary's students and to offer alternatives to cannabis use. The aim of all programs will be to promote responsible cannabis use and attempt to minimize unsafe behaviour.

9.2. The oversight of promotion and awareness activities at Saint Mary's University is the responsibility of the Alcohol and Cannabis Operations

Committee. Student Affairs and Services will work closely with the Saint Mary's University Students' Association, Residence Life staff, other Saint Mary's stakeholders and community groups to raise awareness and educate students about cannabis use. Students who would like to address substance use are encouraged to reach out to The Counselling Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Student Centre and/or call I.M. Well 1-877-234-5237.

## 10. Good Samaritan Protocol

- 10.1 Saint Mary's University is committed to creating a safe campus environment where someone will call for medical assistance when an individual experiences severe reaction or serious injury after consuming alcohol or other drugs (including but not limited to cannabis). These types of emergencies are potentially life threatening and the University will work to reduce barriers to seeking emergency assistance. The Saint Mary's University Good Samaritan Protocol will:
- a. Eliminate disciplinary consequences for:
    - i. Students affected by consumption of alcohol, cannabis, or drugs seeking or requiring medical assistance
    - ii. An individual or individuals providing assistance to the affected student(s) assuming the assisting individual(s) is/are not complicit in the violations under (c)
  - b. Apply when the allegations under the Student Code of Conduct Policy and other Saint Mary's University policies, rules, procedures, and guidelines involve:
    - i. underage consumption of alcohol
    - ii. use of drugs including but not limited to cannabis
    - iii. disorderly conduct
  - c. **does not** preclude disciplinary action regarding **other violations**, such as:
    - i. causing or threatening physical harm or violence
    - ii. sexual violence
    - iii. damage to university or community property
    - iv. misuse of Saint Mary's University Student Identification or other forms of identification
    - v. unlawful sale or supply of alcohol or other drugs
    - vi. harassment or hazing
  - d. any other aspects of misconduct as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct or the Criminal Code of Canada.

## 11. Policy Monitoring

The Alcohol and Cannabis Operations Committee will review this policy annually for the first three years after legalization of cannabis: 2019, 2020, and 2021. After three years, a review schedule up to, but not exceeding every three years will be established.