



## Fort McMurray Composite High School

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**"WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS EXCELLENCE"**

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Student Smoking Policy January, 2016

**Underage students smoking has been an ongoing issue at the school for a number of years. The Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act, 2005 says very clearly;**

3.1(1) No minor shall smoke a tobacco product (a) in a place referred to in section 3, (b) in any outdoor place or area to which members of the public have access as of right or by express or implied invitation, including a highway within the meaning of the Traffic Safety Act, 2005 Section 4 Chapter T-3.8 TOBACCO AND SMOKING REDUCTION ACT 5 (c) in a school building, on school grounds or in any parking areas used in relation to a school building, or (d) in a vehicle that is in a public place or in an outdoor place or area referred to in clauses (a) to (c). (2) No minor shall possess or consume a tobacco product in a place referred to in subsection (1).

**The law is quite clear that students under the age of 18 are not allowed to smoke, or possess tobacco products. That means that students who are not 18 are in possession of prohibited substances if they enter the school premises with those products. Underage students have continued to smoke just off of school property, believing this was the only requirement they had to follow. This has resulted in a poor public image of our school, with a fair number of students breaking the law in plain sight of the school, as well as disrupting the flow of traffic to Keyano College, and leaving a mess behind. As a public institution, we can no longer allow this violation of the law by our students. We realize that smoking is an addiction and have decided to take a two-pronged approach to this problem: smoking cessation programs and enforcement. We have the support of both Alberta Health Services and the RCMP with this approach.**

*Student Smoking Policy*

*The Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act, 2005 restricts smoking and access to tobacco products to persons 18 years of age or older. Composite High students who are 18 years of age or older may smoke off of school property, in Keyano-designated areas if they choose. No student may smoke on school property at any time, including vehicles.*

*Minor students may not be in possession of, or smoke at any time within visual sight of the school during school hours, before or after school, or at school-sponsored events, including vehicles. This ban follows the regular extent of school jurisdiction regarding other matters of student conduct. Minor students may not be in possession of tobacco or related products in the school. Students who are suspected of possessing these products are subject to search and seizure of the products. Students are encouraged to participate in the smoking cessation programs available through the school, offered by AHS addictions counsellors. Students who wish to attain smoking cessation products such as gum or patches, may do so at their own volition and risk.*

*Minor students, who possess tobacco products in school, or engage in smoking within visual sight of the school, or in vehicles within sight of the school are subject to the following:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Offence: Suspension from school. Minimum 1 day*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Offence: 3-day suspension from school.*

*3<sup>d</sup> Offence: 5-day suspension from school with a possible recommendation for expulsion to the School Board.*

*Minor students who engage in smoking or possess tobacco products are also subject to enforcement action from the RCMP, who will be monitoring student activity starting January, 2016. RCMP enforcement may be in conjunction with any school-related actions as well. RCMP enforcement may involve confiscation of products, fines, or arrest. Students who are of legal age, but encourage or aid minor students who are engaging in these illegal activities are subject to the same discipline as listed above.*

Legal References: Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act, 2005  
FMPSD Board Policy FN