Saskatchewan Housing Corporation
No-Smoking Policy

On August 1, 2018, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) will implement a no-smoking policy for all SHC-owned and leased properties.

Definition of Smoke, Smoking and Vaping

- Smoke or smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, pipe, cigarette, tobacco or cannabis product, and ceremonial smoke, including smudging.
- Vape or vaping means the use of an electronic cigarette, vaporizer, water pipe, or any other heated smoking equipment used to vaporize any substance whether or not it contains nicotine.

About SHC's No-Smoking Policy

- Smoking or vaping policy does not prohibit tenants, personnel, or visitors from smoking, only where individuals are allowed to smoke.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted on or in any SHC-owned or leased property except in designated outdoor smoking areas. This includes all buildings (including individual units), grounds, parking lots, and vehicles owned and leased by SHC. This policy applies to all tenants, visitors, personnel, and contractors.
- Tenants in buildings with a common entrance will be allowed to smoke in designated outdoor smoking areas only. Smoking areas will be accessible 24 hours a day and marked with a sign. A fire-safe container will be provided for the disposal of cigarette butts and matches.
- For religious or cultural ceremonies involving ceremonial smoke in areas other than the designated outdoor smoking area, approval must be granted by the housing authority. The housing authority will consider the health, safety, and quiet enjoyment of others before granting these exceptions. Please contact your housing authority to see how you can apply for permission.

Resources to Help Quit Smoking

If you are interested in learning more about how to quit smoking the following resources are available:

- **Smoker's helpline – Toll-free:** 1-877-513-5333 or https://www.smokershelpline.ca
- **Partnership to Assist with Cessation of Tobacco (PACT):** http://www.makeapact.ca
- **Ministry of Health:** https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/wellness-and-prevention/tobacco-and-your-health

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SHC No-Smoking Policy

Q & As for Tenants

Q1. What is SHC's new no-smoking policy?

A1. Smoking or vaping, including ceremonial smoke, is not permitted on Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) property except in designated areas. This includes all buildings (including units and common areas), grounds, parking lots, and vehicles owned or leased by SHC, and it applies to all tenants, visitors, personnel, and contractors. Tenants are responsible for the actions of their guests.

Q2. What types of smoking are prohibited under the new no-smoking policy?

A2. Smoke or smoking is inhaling, exhaling, or carrying any lighted cigar, pipe, cigarette, or tobacco or cannabis product or similar lighted product in any manner or in any form. Also includes the use of an electronic cigarette, a vaporizer, heated smoking equipment, water pipe, or any types of ceremonial smoke, e.g. smudging.

Q3. When does SHC's no-smoking policy take effect?

A3. SHC's no-smoking policy will take effect August 1, 2018.

Q4. Why is SHC implementing a no-smoking policy?

A4. Smoking and second-hand smoke is recognized as a danger to health and a potential breach of other tenants' right to quiet enjoyment. Public expectations for a smoke-free environment have increased, and there is a demand for smoke-free housing due to health issues such as respiratory illnesses, heart disease, cancer, and other medical conditions.

Q5. Why is SHC not providing tenants with more notice before implementing the policy?

A5. This is an important issue, and it's not new. Our housing authorities have been working with tenants to mitigate the impact of second-hand smoke, which has resulted in the implementation of many local no-smoking policies. In addition, summer is the best time of year to implement a no-smoking policy.

Q6. Where are people going to find affordable housing if they cannot live in SHC's housing?

A6. People who smoke may continue to live in their units. The policy does not mean that tenants must quit smoking. It means that they need to smoke in designated outdoor smoking areas only.

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Q7. What if a housing authority already has a no-smoking policy in place?

A7. The new no-smoking policy replaces any existing no-smoking policies that housing authorities may already have.

Q8. Does this no-smoking policy mean tenants have to quit smoking?

A8. No, this does not mean tenants have to quit smoking. The no-smoking policy means individuals can no longer smoke on or in SHC property, including units. Smoking is limited to the designated outdoor smoking areas only.

Q9. Does this no-smoking policy apply to tenants who are experiencing a disability and wish to smoke?

A9. Yes, the no-smoking policy applies to all tenants. Designated smoking areas will be made accessible to tenants who are experiencing a disability.

Q10. Does the no-smoking policy apply to visitors?

A10. Yes, the no-smoking policy applies to anyone on or in SHC property, including visitors.

Q11. Does the no-smoking policy apply if tenants living in single-family dwellings, town houses, or in row housing?

A11. Yes. Tenants and visitors will have to smoke outside their unit in a safe area away from open doors and windows and dispose of their smoking material in a fire-safe container. If units are close to each other, the housing authority may designate a smoking area.

Q12. Can tenants with a medical prescription for cannabis use smoke cannabis in their units?

A12. No. Smoking, including cannabis for medical use, is only permitted in designated smoking areas.

Q13. After recreation use of cannabis is legal, does the no-smoking policy apply to recreational cannabis use?

A13. The no-smoking policy applies to all smoke and smoking-related usage.

Q14. Is ceremonial smoke exempt under the new no-smoking policy?

A14. No. However, tenants may use ceremonial smoke in the designated smoking areas. To use ceremonial smoke in areas other than the designated smoking area, tenants must receive special permission from the housing authority.

Q15. What supports are available in Saskatchewan to help someone who wants to quit smoking or who wants to help a loved one to quit?

A15. Resources to help quit smoking include, but are not limited to:

- Smoker's helpline: Toll-free: 1-877-513-5333 or https://www.smokershelpline.ca/
- Partnership to Assist with Cessation of Tobacco (PACT): http://www.makeapact.ca/
- Ministry of Health: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/wellness-and-prevention/tobacco/

Q16. Who do tenants contact for more information about the no-smoking policy?

A16. Tenants can contact their local housing authority for more information about the no-smoking policy.