

The discussion being brought forward to today's general meeting is about the future of smoke-based products on Queen's campus. Since 1988 Queen's University has had a no-smoking policy for tobacco products on campus. *"The goal of the policy is not to dictate to individuals what they can and cannot do - the goal of the policy is to provide a safe and healthy environment for all employees"* (<http://www.safety.queensu.ca/safety/policy/smoking.htm>). With the growing industry of electronic vapour products and the Canadian government's move to legalize cannabis this upcoming summer I felt it necessary to have a discussion about the future of smoke-based products on a growing campus.

The many negative health impacts of smoking are well-documented. Non-smokers, exposed to second-hand smoke are also at risk for many of the same negative health effects experienced by those who smoke⁶. Even restricting smoking to designated areas and increased ventilation does not eliminate exposure. In fact, in certain conditions, exposure to tobacco smoke outdoors is comparable to indoor levels. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Furthermore, the exposure to smoking on university or college campuses can make it challenging for those who are trying to quit.

In 2018 all hospitals in the province including Kingston Health Sciences have moved to being 100% smoke free environments. Several Canadian institutions have also followed implemented similar policies, including: Acadia University, Emily Carr University, the University of Winnipeg, Dalhousie University, Memorial University, McGill University and McMaster University. These institutions are paired with over 2000 American institutions that also have smoke-free environments.

The intent of a smoke-free policy is not to shame or punish people who use tobacco, but to address the complex factors which lead to smoking and nicotine addiction, and to create a healthier campus for all students, staff, faculty and visitors. A smoke-free policy denormalizes smoking culture, reducing physical and social exposure to smoking and demonstrates a corporate commitment to health and wellness. While development of enforcement protocol is important, enforcement is not the goal of these types of policies.

It is the purpose of this discussion to determine what measures we would like to see the university take with regards to smoking. Do we maintain the status quo of current Queen's policy or see it evolve? Would we like to see new policies for different types of smoke-producing products and cannabis? In an oral report I will provide more information to help guide the discussion and gain feedback from the society.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leo Erlichman', written in a cursive style.

Leo Erlichman

M.A. Candidate