

Madawaska Valley

Association For

Community Living

**POLICY: SMOKING**

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**CATEGORY: SERVICE DELIVERY**

Policy Statement:

On May 31, 2006 the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) took effect. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that those who work, visit or receive services at MVACL do not experience the many detrimental health consequences associated with second-hand smoke.

This Policy applies to all employees, supported individuals, family members, visitors, physicians, students, volunteers, suppliers, agency staff, Board members and independent, third-party contractors working in any capacity at MVACL.

No Person may smoke in an enclosed workplace, prescribed area or company vehicle.

Smoking is prohibited:

1. Within all MVACL buildings and designated areas.
2. Within all MVACL vehicles that are owned or leased for our business.
3. Within a 9-metre radius of any MVACL entrance or windows.

**Support for Those Working at MVACL and Supported Individuals:**

Smoking is an addiction and it is acknowledged that changing one’s smoking pattern is difficult. MVACL is committed to taking a proactive approach in offering a list of educational and community resources for assistance.

**Supported Individuals and Safe Smoking:**

The SFOA legislation states that supported individuals must be able, in the opinion of the proprietor or employer, to smoke safely without assistance from an employee in order to smoke. MVACL will assess those who wish to smoke outside to ensure they can do so safely and independently.

**Supported Individuals who are not allowed outside on their own:**

Staff will not escort supported individuals to smoke, who are not allowed outside on their own. This is not only for staff health issues, but also to ensure coverage of the other supported individuals’ needs. We would also ask family or visitors to remember that if the supported individual is not independent enough to smoke, providing them with assistance to smoke on visits may mean that they will be in withdrawal after the visit.

**Supported Individuals who are cutting back on smoking or quitting:**

Supported individuals will be provided with smoking cessation programs, medical aids and support and education will be provided.

**Compliance:**

Employees who do not abide by the policy and are caught smoking in smoke-free areas will be disciplined according to existing MVACL Policies and Procedures.

Those working at MVACL are encouraged to enforce the policy to ensure its effectiveness. If one witnesses a supported individual or visitor smoking where smoking is prohibited, the following are steps to enforce the policy:

1. Approach the person and inform them that smoking is not permitted in that area. If appropriate, advise the person that if they wishes to continue smoking to go outside to an area where smoking is allowed.
2. If further assistance is required, contact a manager.

Adapted From the *Smoke-free Ontario Act:* **MVACL Smoking Policy.**