



APPLEGROVE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

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“TOGETHER, BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY”



Tobacco Free Policy for Applegrove Endorsed by Board on May 31, 2010

1. Rationale

- 1.1. Applegrove Community Complex recognizes that exposure to second hand smoke is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Exposure to second-hand smoke can lead to serious illnesses in adults such as bronchitis, lung cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Children can also develop chest illnesses and asthma from exposure to tobacco smoke.
- 1.2. Like other tobacco products, there is conclusive scientific evidence that smokeless (spit) tobacco contains nicotine, carcinogens and other harmful substances that may lead to cancer and other diseases. Studies have shown that long-term users are at a 50-fold excess risk of cancer of the gum and cheek. Smokeless tobacco use also causes cancer of the pharynx, esophagus, larynx, pancreas, urinary tract, and nasal cancer in those who inhale snuff.
- 1.3. Applegrove also recognizes the challenges that smokers face when they try to quit.
- 1.4. Accordingly, Applegrove has developed the following policy to protect the health of all concerned. The move to go tobacco-free also complements Applegrove's desire to create a healthy family and community-friendly environment.
- 1.5. Applegrove believes that such an environment and image will be help to fulfill its mission, “Together, Building Our Community”.

2. Who is affected by the Policy?

This policy applies to Applegrove staff, volunteers, program participants and visitors, for both on-site and off-site events.

3. Timing

This policy is effective from June 15, 2010.

4. Designated Tobacco-Free Areas

- 4.1. Applegrove's main location and HAIG satellite are on Toronto District School Board property which has a smoke-free policy. Applegrove further designates its locations as tobacco-free.
- 4.2. Applegrove off-site trips and events should be tobacco-free.

5. Behavioural Expectations

- 5.1. Applegrove recognizes that role modeling can have a significant impact upon young people. Therefore, the following individuals and groups are to refrain from using tobacco while they are acting in an official capacity or while wearing Applegrove clothing:

- staff (when on work time, representing the organization or while wearing Applegrove clothing if relevant)
- volunteers (when working for or representing the organization or while wearing Applegrove clothing if relevant)
- program participants (while wearing Applegrove clothing if relevant).

5.2. As appropriate, programs will offer workshops on the risks of using tobacco.

6. Non-Compliance Strategy

- 6.1. At the beginning of off-site events and relevant trips, the MC, staff member or senior volunteers should briefly explain the tobacco-free policy and ask that participants who need to use tobacco, do so away from other participants.
- 6.2. The following strategy should be used if a volunteer, program participant or visitor does not follow the tobacco-free policy:
- a) Assume that the person is unaware of the tobacco-free policy.
 - b) A staff member or senior volunteer should approach the person, politely explain the policy and ask the person not to use tobacco or remove Applegrove clothing while using tobacco.
- 6.3. The following strategy should be used if a staff does not follow the tobacco-free policy:
- a) The supervisor or a senior staff should politely remind the staff member of the policy and ask the person not to use tobacco. As appropriate, the supervisor can ask the staff member to remove Applegrove clothing while using tobacco.
 - b) If the staff member continues not to follow the tobacco-free policy, the supervisor should treat this as any other non-compliance with agency policy.

7. Sale of Tobacco Products

Applegrove will not sell tobacco products.

8. Donations

Applegrove will not accept donations from businesses that directly manufacture or import tobacco products.

9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed six months after its introduction and at least every 2 years after that. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.