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**Application Deadline:**  
Tuesday, September 13 - 3 PM

# No more smoking!

by Roberta Franchuk

A new non-smoking era at the University of Alberta began September 1.

A policy passed by the board of governors on May 13 prohibited smoking in all buildings or parts of buildings under control of the university, although some designated areas have been set aside for the use of smokers.

Private offices have been included under the no smoking rules.

There will be no "roving SWAT teams" searching for violators, said Gordon Weir of the Occupational Health and Safety department, as no specific mechanism for enforcement was built into the policy. The measures that currently exist under the Code of Student Behavior and the faculty association agreements should be sufficient to handle the situation, Weir believes.

Breaches of the smoking policy will be treated the same way as any other breach of University policy. Penalties for students, as outlined in the Code of Student Behavior, include expulsion, suspension, fines, and reprimands.

Smoking is currently being restricted to portions of university food service outlets, with no more than 33 percent of the seating area to be designated as a smoking section. Other common areas, such as lounges, may be turned into smoking areas with the permission of the administration.

"The idea is to keep it to a reasonable minimum," said Weir.

Residences will be allowed to set their own policies through their student residence associations. The Lister Hall Students' Association has so far been the only residence to do so, declaring the entire building a smoke-free zone, said Dr. Wynn Gittins, Student Housing Officer. Other

residences are expected to set their policies shortly.

HUB Commercial Mall has declared its commercial traffic areas to be non-smoking, said J. Malone, manager of the Bookstore, which is the leasing agency for HUB. Food service areas with indoor seating will be allowed to set their own policies on smoking.

Only the Galley Lounge is a smoking area now, but after renovations to HUB have been completed, some time in December, three of the four lounge areas will be non-smoking, said Malone.

The Students' Union Building will be non-smoking except for RATT, Dinwoodie Cabaret during events, and the current smoking area on the main floor, said Margriet Tilroe-West, facilities manager for SUB.

In time, the ventilation in all smoking areas across campus will be upgraded to remove the smoke created there. Most university buildings currently recirculate the inside air, thus sending smoke through the rest of the building.

The need for some kind of smoking policy was recognized two years ago. Weir, the newly-appointed coordinator for Occupational Health and Safety, was directed to look at the issue. His first step was to survey the staff associations and student groups that would be affected.

The survey indicated that "the feeling was generally quite strong that, yes, something should be done," said Weir. A policy was drafted, and the final version was approved by the board of governors in May.

September 1 was chosen as the starting date for the policy for the sake of consistency. A January start date was rejected because it would be difficult for students and staff to "start the year under one set of rules, and end on another set," explained Weir.

Weir does not anticipate any problems with the policy at the U of A, although he notes other universities that have adopted similar policies, including Concordia and the University of British Columbia, found "there's always a few that are adamant about smoking."

For smokers who have trouble confining their habits to the set areas, the university is planning to set up some assistance programs to help them stop smoking, although details remain to be worked out.

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## The policy

All buildings or parts of buildings under the control of the University are non-smoking areas, subject to the exceptions set out below.

The principal entrances to all buildings or parts of buildings will have signs informing all persons that the University's policies prohibit smoking except in designated areas. The absence of such signs at any building entrance, however, does not affect the general prohibition against smoking.