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MacEwan University restricts the use e-cigarettes in campus buildings

Edmonton—The Board of Governors at MacEwan University has approved a recommendation to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in campus buildings. E-cigarettes are a battery operated device that look like a regular cigarette but produce a vapor rather than smoke as it vaporizes nicotine or other flavored liquids. The policy was approved at a Board of Governors meeting on October 29.

MacEwan University has been a non-smoking environment since opening its City Centre Campus in 1993, and the university has never allowed the sale of tobacco products in its convenience stores.

For those who do smoke, MacEwan University has several dedicated spaces outdoors which were identified in 2006 when the university first restricted smoking outside campus buildings. Each dedicated smoking area is at least 10 metres from any entrance.

The World Health Organization (WHO) wants to ban the sale of e-cigarette devices to minors, increase restrictions on advertising, along with banning their use indoors and in the workplaces according to reports released in August, 2014. The report also recommends a ban on fruit and candy-flavoured e-cigarettes as they may attract children.

The WHO report highlights concerns about the tobacco industry’s control of the $3 billion e-cigarette market. The report illustrates how e-cigarette aerosol is not simply water vapor, as is often claimed in marketing material. The devices also increase the exposure of non-smokers and bystanders to nicotine and a number of toxins.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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