



# School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

May 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

## **RE: Healthy Living and Smoking Regulations**

As we transition from one school year to the next, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our families of middle school students that we operate under the Ministry of Education policy of ***Tobacco-Free Schools***. This policy is an extension of the ***Tobacco Control Act***, which deems any use of tobacco on school grounds at any time, to be against the law. This applies to all types of tobacco, not just cigarettes.

In the middle school years, students can be susceptible to trying and becoming addicted to nicotine and we are determined to prevent this as much as possible. In addition to the potential serious adverse effects to their health such as cancer, lung disease and eye cataracts, students who smoke often put their education at risk.

At our middle schools, students are not permitted to leave the campus at any time during the day unless a parent/guardian comes to pick their student up. Students who are addicted to nicotine will sometimes leave the campus to have a cigarette and end up being late or missing class altogether. This affects not only their own success but is also disruptive to other students and teachers. Of particular concern is when pressure is put on other students to leave the campus with them.

*Chronic defiance of our policy and regulations in this area may result in the student being removed from their school and provided with an alternate means of education.*

For those students that are truly addicted, there are some means of support:

- Consult with your pharmacist and doctor
- [www.quitnow.ca](http://www.quitnow.ca)
- Tobacco Reduction Coordinators (Bonnie Harper) based out of Dawson Creek: ph. [1-250-719-6500](tel:1-250-719-6500)
- A free nicotine patch or gum can be obtained by dialing 811 and getting a reference number

School District No. 60 promotes healthy living for all our students and appreciates your support and cooperation.

Sincerely

Stephen Petrucci  
Assistant Superintendent

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