

CUPE 1615

Box 110
Arts & Administration
Memorial University
St. John's A1C 5S7
(709)737 2393 fax (709)737 8980
<http://www.mun.ca/cupe1615>

April 19, 2011

DONNA BALL
Senior Policy Analyst
Policy Office, Board of Regents
Earth Sciences Building, Room ER-6034
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL Canada
A1B 3X5

Re: Proposed Revised Draft Smoking Policy.

Dear Donna:

Our local has reviewed the revised draft for a new Smoking Policy at MUN. We are in support of these changes where they protect the Health of non-smokers by lessening the risk of exposure to second hand smoke. However, we do have concerns regarding the rights of smokers, some of whom are employees of MUN and members of our local.

While removing smoking from entrances and air intakes is the correct step, we believe Memorial has a duty to supply some structures to protect smokers from the elements in the newly designated areas.

Smoking is a legal activity no matter how some in society may view it, and as such accommodations for smokers must also be considered.

Ms. Sheila Miller has some concerns that supplying structures for smokers may contravene the present legislation regarding the banning of smoking in any facility. We do not share this interpretation and will ask Government to clarify this. The intent of legislation is to protect individuals from being subjected to second hand smoke and should not apply to facilities constructed solely for use by smokers while smoking. These structures could have a warning and would not pose any risk to non-smokers who would be able to give them a wide berth.

We would ask that you include structures to protect smokers from the elements within your new smoking policy and that these be set up in each of the designated new smoking areas on Campus.

Sincerely,

Mike J. Murphy
President CUPE 1615

cc: Health and Safety Office.