Medicine Hat Public Library	Policy: LS.13
Category: Library Service	Title: Patron Conduct
	Date Approved: 2019 09 04

Purpose: To foster a positive, safe and comfortable environment in which all persons using the Library's services and facilities are treated with respect and dignity. To ensure that acceptable behaviour in the library is defined and understood; behaviour standards are enforced consistently and fairly; and staff members feel supported when dealing with patron conduct and/or complaints about patron conduct.

1. **Definitions**

- 1.1. Smoking: lighting, smoking or carrying a lighted or smoldering cigar, cigarette or pipe of any kind, containing any substance.
- 1.2. Vaping: use of any electronic device which creates an inhalable aerosol or vapour.

2. Conduct of library users

- 2.1. Library users are expected to abide by all Library policies, guidelines and procedures.
- 2.2. Food and drink may be consumed in the library provided that no damage or soiling results. Patrons are expected to exercise this privilege responsibly.
- 2.3. Consumption of, sale of, and/or visible intoxication by alcohol or drugs is prohibited.
- 2.4. Disruptive behaviour including excessive noise, swearing and verbal aggression is prohibited.
- 2.5. Harassing behaviour and sexual harassment are prohibited. Harassment includes offensive, demeaning or belittling comments and other uninvited, bothersome contact. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual remarks, jokes, propositions, leering, staring, touching and display of suggestive images or other objectionable content.
- 2.6. Damage or inappropriate use of library equipment, furnishings and facilities is prohibited.
- 2.7. Violence and aggression including threats, verbal abuse, intimidation, physical contact and display of weapons are prohibited.
- 2.8. Animals are not allowed in the library except for qualified service dogs. An Alberta Service Dog Identification Card is required to demonstrate the animal's qualification.
- 2.9. Library users shall dress appropriately including wearing shirts, shoes and other appropriate attire at all times.
- 2.10. Photographing, filming and video recording on library property requires pre-authorization by the Chief Librarian or designate.
- 2.11. Public distribution of documents or petitions, solicitation, proselytizing and political campaigning are prohibited without prior authorization of the Chief Librarian or designate.
- 2.12. Smoking, vaping and other use of tobacco, cannabis and inhalable substances are prohibited in the Library and on Library grounds.
 - 2.12.1. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chief Librarian, for example to enable ceremonial smudging in accordance with traditional First Nations practices.

3. Consequences of prohibited conduct

3.1. Library users who engage in prohibited behaviour or otherwise violate the conduct policy may be warned by staff, ordered to leave the library for the remainder of the day, or banned from the library for a longer period of time, depending on the severity of their conduct. Police may be called to intervene and/or criminal charges may be laid when appropriate.