

Fragrance Policy– Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Policy

Shaughnessy Heights United Church is committed to eliminating health concerns arising from exposure to scent and scented products by maintaining a scent-safe environment for everyone on SHUC premises. All congregants, employees, renters and visitors will refrain from using or wearing scented products at SHUC facilities.

Purpose of this policy:

- Increase awareness within our congregation of the potential impact that fragrance may have on the health and wellbeing of others;
- Encourage cooperation in minimizing the use of scented products;
- Ensure provision of education and educational materials on scent health impacts and suitable alternative products
- Ensure an enduring commitment at SHUC on this matter
- Empower individuals in addressing scent-related issues
- Provide first aid where required
- Assist anyone affected by a fragrance sensitivity to communicate with mutual respect and courtesy.

As a congregation we are committed to using cleaning products that are low scent and environmentally friendly, except for bleach-based cleaning solutions as required by the Ministry of Health. This also applies to products used by the Shaughnessy Day Care, other tenants, renters and contractors. This policy is in support of SHUC's commitment to inclusivity.

General Information

As a community of faith, it is important that all people who come here feel respected and safe – spiritually and physically.

For the general population, exposure to scents is not typically a problem. However for some individuals with chemical sensitivity, asthma or allergies, exposure to perfumes and other scented products is a health hazard, or even life threatening. Reactions may vary from breathing problems to migraine headaches, anxiety, inability to concentrate, nausea, fatigue, and/or skin irritation.

Commonly used scented products include:

- Perfume
- Essential oil products
- Scented deodorant
- Cologne
- Aftershave
- Hair sprays, gel and other hygiene products
- Scented lotions and creams
- Scented laundry products
- Air fresheners, scented candles, potpourri or odor masking products
- Industrial and household chemicals and cleaners
- Heavily scented floral displays

How You Can Help Create a Scent-Free Church Space?

- Please be considerate of individuals who may be sensitive to scented products;
- Do not wear or bring scented products to the church;
- Avoid using scented flowers or scented candles in church displays;
- Be aware of the types of products you use that are scented;
- Choose unscented products

Implementation of SHUC Scent-Free Policy

· Congregants will be informed and reminded of this guideline through on-site posters, SHUC website, Order of Service bulletins, InTouch emails and periodic Second Hour talks.

· Visitors will be informed through on-site posters and the website; explanation is also available from church staff.

· Tenants and rental groups will be advised of this SHUC Scent-Free Guideline by the church administrator and church rental agreements will include this information.

Version 2.0

March, 2022

Policy of SHUC Council

Replaces January 2016 SHUC Council Scent -free Guidelines

Contractors will be informed of the policy before they visit the SHUC site

· The church office, tenants and Church School will use odor-free supplies, except where Ministry of Health requires use of bleach-based/other cleaning solutions.

- Official communications from SHUC by email, letter or other means will include a notice that SHUC is a scent free building

Employees will be informed by the Ministry & Personnel team.

Where to learn more about fragrance sensitivities and scent-free living?

- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/scent_free.html
- • British Columbia Lung Association (www.bc.lung.ca)
- • Canadian Health Network (www.canadian-health-network.ca)
- • Guide to Less Toxic Products (www.lesstoxicguide.ca)
- • Fragranced Products Information Network <http://www.fpinva.org/text/index.html>
- • A Report on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) from the Interagency Workgroup on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity <http://web.health.gov/environment/mcs/toc.htm>
- • Scents and sensitivity article in Environmental Health Perspectives
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/1998/106-12/focus.html>
- • Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association <http://www.cctfa.ca>
- • Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome <http://www.aafp.org/afp/980901ap/magill.html>
- • Scented Products Education and Information Association of Canada
<http://www.cctfa.ca/scented/>
- • Asthma Society of Canada <http://www.asthma.ca/adults>
- • Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute <http://www.esri.org>
- • Scent guidelines and awareness programs are in place at many other places of worship

Version 2.0

March, 2022

Policy of SHUC Council

Replaces January 2016 SHUC Council Scent -free Guidelines

