



Trent Durham Student Association

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The Trent Durham Student Association (TDSA) believes that all students deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and that their right to self determination should be upheld, provided it does not threaten others' rights and safety. In regards to alcohol and drug consumption, TDSA believes in a harm reduction approach. Harm reduction refers to programs and policies that aim to lessen social and/or physical harms surrounding alcohol and/or drug use, utilizing pragmatism, human value and a focus on harms.¹

As such, the TDSA believes that all students should not be punished by Trent University or party's adjacent to based on if they have consumed illegal or "excessive" amounts of alcohol and/or drugs. This includes, but is not limited to, if the students are under the influence during an emergency situation such as an overdose. Furthermore, students' right to self-determination should be upheld even in difficult situations. This includes, but is not limited to, respecting students' wish to deny medical or emergency assistance, if they are physically and mentally capable of denying said assistance.

The TDSA supports students rights to confidentiality and support, should students seek it, in all private matters, including substance use and abuse.

The TDSA also believes that students should be able to engage in legal substance use (such as alcohol and cannabis) at the appropriate social gatherings, in responsible and safe manners.

Furthermore, the TDSA supports evidence-based, harm reduction education for staff and students which would allow them to be better aware and equipped to deal with disclosures and emergency protocol within their community.

Finally, the TDSA advocates for safe and accessible smoking locations throughout campus that respect municipal by-laws and other health concerns.

¹ "Addiction and Substance Use Treatment Options." CMHA Ontario, 2020.
<https://ontario.cmha.ca/harm-reduction/>.