

# *Grasslands School Division Administrative Procedures*

## A.P. 615 Tobacco-Free Environment/Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies **Section Six: Facilities**

**Effective Date:**

**Last Reviewed**

### **Background**

The division recognizes a responsibility to provide safe environments for students, staff and visitors. Smoking, smoke-laden environments, and the use of smokeless tobacco are linked to serious illnesses. Smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco, and the use of e-cigarettes is therefore prohibited by all persons in all school division buildings, in school division vehicles, and on accompanying grounds.

Although it is acknowledged that tobacco use is very habit-forming and difficult to quit, this procedure deals only with use on school division property; refusal to comply is insubordination.

Volunteer supervisors are also expected to abstain from smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco, and the use of e-cigarettes while driving or in the immediate vicinity of students.

Smudging or pipe ceremonies will be allowed if performed as per the requirements that follow.

### **Procedures**

#### **1. Tobacco Free Environment**

- i. To effect a “Tobacco-Free Environment” in the school division, “No Tobacco or E-cigarette Use” signs shall be posted in all school division facilities and vehicles.
- ii. Employees who fail to adhere to this procedure will be dealt with by their immediate supervisor with an initial warning and subsequent discipline, if necessary.
- iii. Students who fail to adhere to this procedure will be dealt with by school administration with an initial warning and subsequent discipline, if necessary.
- iv. This procedure applies to all community groups and organizations, and the general public who visit or use Board owned facilities. It also applies to volunteer supervisors while driving or in the immediate vicinity of students.

## **2. Smudging**

Smudging is a protocol that has long been observed and performed by many First Nations. First Nations in western Canada generally use sweetgrass, sages, cedars and other plants for smudging. When preparations are made to smudge, the sweetgrass, sages, cedars and other plants are lit with matches or hot coals. The smoke is then used with the person's hands in a 'washing' manner by pushing or cupping the smoke towards them. Grasslands School Division recognizes that smudging and the use of herbs and tobacco are a part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life and are, therefore, permitted in Grasslands schools, subject to proper safety measures.

- i. Any student with respiratory problems who requests, or whose parents request, exemption from the ceremony, will be excused.
- ii. If smudging is to take place in a Grasslands building it will be in a designated area.
- iii. Any areas designated as smudging areas are to be well ventilated and approved by the Manager of Facilities and Maintenance.
- iv. Designated smudging areas must contain a fully charged fire extinguisher.
  - v. Staff responsible must be instructed on the use of fire extinguishers.
- vi. When smudging ceremonies are completed, the materials must be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- vii. Smoking or warm smudging materials need to burn out on their own.
- viii. Smudge remnants and matches are to be placed in a tin can and saved.
- ix. Smudge remnants are never to be placed in trash receptacle.

## **3. Pipe Ceremonies**

Pipe ceremonies involve the use of tobacco and will be performed only by a pipe carrier. The same safety protocols are to be followed as for smudging.