

AP 163 – TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The Division recognizes its responsibility to promote a healthy lifestyle and ensure a tobacco-free environment for the health and welfare of students, staff members and visitors. It is the intention of this procedure to be consistent with all provincial and municipal statute ordinances related to the prohibition of the use, possession or distribution of tobacco and tobacco like products (including e- cigarettes, hookah, etc.)

Procedures

1. The Division bans the sale and promotion of tobacco products on Division owned and/or operated property.
2. All tobacco and related products are prohibited:
 - 2.1 Smoking, burning, or vaporizing any substance whatsoever, including any tobacco, clove, herb, electronic liquid, shisha, cannabis, medical cannabis, medication, legal drug, or illegal drug, by any delivery method whatsoever, including by cigarette, electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, hookah, joint, bong, or water pipe, unless a teacher or principal grants permission to burn a substance during a Mass or other liturgical or cultural celebration, a classroom lesson, or an activity sponsored or approved by the Division.
 - 2.2 Chewing, inhaling, snorting, or consuming any smokeless tobacco substance whatsoever, including chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, and snuff.
3. The use of tobacco and tobacco like products is prohibited:
 - 3.1 In all Division owned and/or operated facilities and vehicles;
 - 3.2 On school grounds; and
 - 3.3 By students and staff at all school-related or school-sanctioned activities on or off school property.
4. When completing school rental requests, the Principal or designate must clearly communicate this procedure.
5. The Division recognizes and accepts smudging and pipe ceremonies authorized by a senior administrator as outlined in Appendix A: Smudging Ceremonies.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 150, 151, 175, 231 Education Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act

APPENDIX A: SMUDGING

Background

The Division recognizes the spiritual needs of Indigenous communities. The Division recognizes that smudging involves first, a tobacco offering, and then, smudging. The use of sweetgrass, sage, cedar, and/or fungus are part of smudging and Indigenous traditional ways of life. Therefore, tobacco offerings and smudging are permitted in Division schools, subject to proper safety measures.

Definition

Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and/or fungus. Smudge produces a distinct scent, but the smoke associated with it is minimal and lasts a very short time. A smudge is burned to cleanse the body, mind, spirit of any bad feelings, negative thoughts, or negative energy - cleansing both physically and spiritually.

Procedures

1. If smudging or a pipe ceremony is to take place in a Division building or designated site, principals/supervisors must ensure staff understand the associated protocols and importance of smudging and pipe ceremonies as part of Indigenous traditional ways of life.
2. If smudging or a pipe ceremony is to take place in a Division building, it will be in an area designated by the facility administrator.
3. Locations designated for smudging or a pipe ceremony shall be well ventilated.
4. Designated smudging areas must contain a fully charged fire extinguisher and staff responsible for overseeing a smudging or pipe ceremony must be trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers.
5. When smudging ceremonies are completed, the materials must be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner in accordance with the following:
 - 5.1. Smoking or warm smudging materials need to burn out on their own.
 - 5.2. Smudge remnants and matches are to be placed in a metal can or box and saved.
 - 5.3. Smudge remnants are never to be placed in trash receptacles.
6. Pipe ceremony protocols are to be initiated and managed by a designated Indigenous leader who is an elder or who is designated by an elder.