

SMOKE FREE FACILITIES

Background

The Division has a responsibility to promote the health and welfare of staff and students and to act as a positive role model for students, therefore it requires all Division school facilities and sites to be smoke free environments.

Procedures

1. The Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act bans smoking in all public places and workplaces including work vehicles.
2. Smoking may occur on Division property outside of the facility after school hours in a clearly signed designated area, prohibited to minors, provided the area is kept tidy and clean.
3. The Division prohibits smoking within five (5) metres of a doorway, window or intake of a public place or workplace.
4. With the prior approval of the Principal, the use of tobacco is permitted as part of religious/ceremonial events.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016

Reference: Section 20, 60, 61, 96, 113, 117 School Act
Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act
Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Regulation
Smoke-free Places Act

SMUDGING/PIPE CEREMONIES

Background

The Division recognizes the spiritual needs of the Aboriginal community. The 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 Division schools, subject to proper safety measures.

Definition

Smudging is an Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of sage, sweetgrass and/or cedar. Smudge produces a distinct odour, 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 is to take place in a Division building, principals/supervisors must ensure staff understand the associated protocols and importance of smudging and pipe ceremonies as part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life.
2. If smudging is to take place in a Division building it will be in a designated area.
3. Any areas designated as smudging areas are to be in a well-ventilated area and approved by the Director of Support Services or designate.
4. Designated smudging areas must contain a fully charged fire extinguisher.
5. Staff responsible must be instructed on the use of fire extinguishers.
6. When smudging ceremonies are completed the materials must be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
 - 6.1 Smoking or warm smudging materials need to burn out on their own.
 - 6.2 Smudge remnants and matches are to be placed in a tin can and saved.
 - 6.3 Smudge remnants are never to be placed in trash receptacle.
7. Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies and only by a pipe carrier.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016

Reference: Section 20, 60, 61, 96, 113, 117 School Act
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Regulation 13/2003
Tobacco Reduction Act