

SMOKE/TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The use of tobacco in any form by students, employees and other persons is not conducive to the maintenance of a healthy environment. All Division premises and vehicles will be smoke and tobacco-free, and all school-sponsored activities shall be smoke and tobacco-free.

Definition

Tobacco is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless dip, chew, and snuff, in any form.

Procedures

1. All Division buildings, vehicles and grounds are designated smoke/tobacco-free.
2. The Principal shall ensure that all students, staff, parents, visitors and community user-groups are made aware of the smoke/tobacco-free requirement.
3. Supervisors shall inform their staff members that the use of tobacco is prohibited in or on Division-owned property.
4. Any student or staff member that is in violation of these procedures will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary practices established within the Division.
5. Principals shall ensure that an awareness program on the hazards of tobacco use and second-hand smoke is provided to all students as part of the health curriculum.
6. With the prior approval of the Principal, the use of tobacco is permitted as part of religious/ceremonial events.

Reference: Section 20, 45, 45.1, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act
Tobacco Reduction Act
Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Regulation AR 13/2003

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 Facilities and Technology 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 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.

Reference: Section 20, 45, 45.1, 60, 61, 96, 113, 117 School Act