

SMOKE-FREE SPACES

Background

The Division is responsible for maintaining a low-hazard working environment in each of its premises for the benefit of students and employees. It accepts the medical profession's position that tobacco products represent a health hazard to all who come in contact with them.

Likewise the Division acknowledges both the Tobacco Reduction Act, which bans the use of smoking in public places and workplaces as well as the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act, which specifically prohibits the possession or use of tobacco products by minors.

Procedures

1. All Division property shall be smoke-free for twenty-four (24) hours per day.
2. Principals and site managers will monitor to ensure compliance with legislation.
3. With the prior approval of the Principal, the use of tobacco is permitted as part of religious/ceremonial events.

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

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 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, 60, 61, 96, 113, 117 School Act