

Administrative Procedure

SMUDGING AND PIPE CEREMONIES

Background

Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sweetgrass, sage and/or cedar. Sage smudge produces a very strong and distinct aroma but the smoke associated with it is minimal and lasts a very short time. Sweetgrass has a very mild aroma and produces even less smoke than sage. A smudge is burned primarily for purification and to help to create a positive mind set.

Tobacco is extremely important to the Indigenous cultures of the region – it is one of the sacred medicines. Tobacco is used to open communication, whether to talk with an Elder to ask questions or when requesting a ceremony, or when praying to the Creator. Tobacco is also smoked in sacred pipes.

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* which came into effect on May 31, 2006 provides that an Indigenous person has the right to use tobacco if it is being used for traditional Indigenous cultural or spiritual purposes.

Procedure

Designated Smudging and Pipe Ceremony Areas:

- Permanent tipi at the Porcupine Campus
- All canvas tipis

Occasional Smudging and Pipe Ceremony Areas:

Other areas in campus buildings may also be used for smudging and pipe ceremonies.

1. Contact the Facilities Coordinator (or the Campus Manager at JBEC) who will examine the requested location for ventilation, smoke alarms, etc.
2. The Facilities Coordinator (or the Campus Manager at JBEC) will determine if the location is suitable. If the location is not suitable, the Facilities Coordinator (or the Campus Manager at JBEC) will work with the requestor to find an alternate location.
3. The Facilities Coordinator (or the Campus Manager at JBEC) will post the approved signage where the smudging/pipe ceremony will be taking place. (Appendix A)
4. In order to reduce the number of inquiries regarding the smell of smoke in buildings, a notification email will be sent out to all staff on campus advising where the smudging/pipe ceremony will be taking place by the Facilities Coordinator (or the Campus Manager at JBEC).

Approved:



Fred Gibbons, President

Date: October 12, 2012

Endorsed by the Northern College Indigenous Council on Education at their meeting of October 12, 2012.



SMUDGING PIPE CEREMONY LOCATION

THIS ROOM IS BEING USED AS A SMUDGING AND/OR PIPE CEREMONY LOCATION

Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sweetgrass, sage and/or cedar. Sage smudge produces a very strong and distinct aroma but the smoke associated with it is minimal and lasts a very short time. Sweetgrass has a very mild aroma and produces even less smoke than sage. A smudge is burned primarily for purification and to help create a positive mind set.

Tobacco is one of the sacred medicines in Indigenous culture and is used in pipe ceremonies by pipe carriers.

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* which came into effect on May 31, 2006 provides that an Indigenous person has the right to use tobacco if it is being used for traditional Indigenous cultural or spiritual purposes. Northern College recognizes that smudging and pipe ceremonies are a part of the Indigenous traditional way of life and are therefore encouraged on campus.