

### SMUDGING / PIPE CEREMONIES

#### Background

The District recognizes the spiritual needs of the Indigenous community. The District recognizes that smudging and the use of herbs and tobacco are a part of the Indigenous traditional way of life and are, therefore, permitted in District schools, subject to proper safety measures.

#### Definition

Smudging is an Indigenous 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 District building, principals/supervisors must ensure staff understand the associated protocols and importance of smudging and pipe ceremonies as part of the Indigenous traditional way of life.
2. If smudging is to take place in a District 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 Operations.
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.

Reference: Sections 6, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 85 School Act  
Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Act  
School Regulation 265/89  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report Calls to Action

Adopted: September 1, 2018