



## Administrative Procedure 162 – Appendix

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### 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 a common Indigenous cultural practice 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 and spirit.

#### 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.
4. When smudging ceremonies are completed, the materials must be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Smudge remnants shall not be placed in trash receptacle.
5. Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies and only by a pipe carrier.

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

Adopted: December 15, 2020