
Guideline for Traditional Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies on Campus

Tobacco Control Act

Section 2(2): “Nothing in this Act affects the rights of Indigenous people respecting traditional indigenous spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.”

Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies

Smudging is a cleansing and purification ceremony in which a person(s) is (are) able to gather and connect thoughts for a person’s wellbeing and to help focus for the day. This Indigenous ceremony is usually done by burning specific herbs (i.e. sweet grass, sage and/or other herbs) in a shell or earthen bowl. The smoke is then brushed over the eyes, mouth, ears, hands, heart, and whole body of the participants.

Pipe Ceremonies are sacred, spiritual ceremonies for connecting physical and spiritual worlds. The pipe symbolizes unity and harmony and to smoke the pipe in the ceremony is to give back to the world unity, peace, and harmony. The pipe is filled with pipe tobacco and smoked.

Location for Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies

1. The Indigenous Student Centre is designated as the campus smudging/pipe location. A sign will be placed on the door of the area which will indicate the dates and times smudging and/or pipe ceremonies will occur.
2. Whenever smudging and/or pipe ceremonies happen outside of the normal hours for these celebrations and; whenever possible, 24 hours’ notice will be given by placing a notice on the Indigenous Student Centre sign and sending an email to all campus staff.
3. In order to help facilitate support and understanding from co-workers, education sessions will be organized and delivered annually through the Indigenous Student Center either by the Indigenous Student Advisor (ISA) or an Elder who has been invited by the ISA.
4. The Indigenous Student Advisor will arrange and organize any smudging or pipe ceremonies taking place both inside the Indigenous Student Centre and also those at other locations on the campus.