

SMUDGING

Background

The District recognizes that smudging and the use of medicines such as: tobacco, sage, sweetgrass and cedar are a part of the Indigenous way of life and are, therefore, permitted in District schools, subject to proper safety measures.

Musqueam does not practice smudging but does recognize and respect the traditions and teachings of all nations.

Definition

Smudging is an Indigenous cultural practice which involves the burning of tobacco, sage, sweetgrass and/or cedar. Smudging produces a distinct odour, but the smoke associated with it is minimal and lasts a very short time.

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 or cleansing as part of the Indigenous 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 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 be fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
 - 6.1 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 the garbage.

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
School Regulation 265/89
Tobacco Control Regulation
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report Calls to Action

Effective: September 24, 2018

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