

# SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

## Purpose/Background

The Division is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees and visitors. All buildings and vehicles owned and operated by the Division, and all Division property, shall be smoke-free environments including restricting the use of:

- Tobacco
- Marijuana or other substances
- E-cigarettes

The only exception being ceremonial use of Indigenous medicines for Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies. See Appendix A.

In accordance with the Tobacco Reduction Act and the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act, the Division prohibits tobacco and E-cigarette use and possession by anyone under the age of 18 years of age in schools, in vehicles owned and operated by the Division and on school grounds or at school-related activities. Employees of the Division are expected to model the expectations of this Administrative Procedure.

The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

## Definition

In this administrative procedure:

Smoke-free pertains to the non-use of all tobacco and cannabis related products, including chewing tobacco and e-tobacco products (including vaping, etc.). Vaping of any product is considered smoking, therefore, not permitted.

## Procedures

1. This Administrative Procedure applies to all users of Division operated buildings, including students, employees and visitors. It applies to all school activities as well as community use activities at Division operated buildings.
2. This Administrative Procedure applies to vehicles owned and operated by the Division, which includes vehicles that are leased or contracted to the Division, including school buses.
3. With the prior approval of the Principal, the ceremonial/traditional use of indigenous medicines for smudging and pipe ceremonies is permitted.

## **Appendix A – SMUDGING/ PIPE CEREMONIES**

### **Purpose/Background**

The Division recognizes the spiritual needs of Indigenous Communities. The Division recognizes that smudging and the use of natural medicines, plants and ceremonial tobacco are a part of the Indigenous traditional way of life and are, therefore, permitted in Division schools, subject to proper safety measures.

### **Definition**

Smudging is a traditional practice used in many Indigenous cultures. Although, smudge practices may differ it is used for medicinal purposes and spiritual ceremonies. It generally involves a prayer and the burning of various sacred medicines and plants such sage, sweetgrass, cedar, diamond willow fungus etc. The smoke from the smudge is used to cleanse the body, mind, heart and spirit and to do things in a good way.

### **Procedures**

1. A smudge may be planned and led in consultation with an Elder, or someone who is experienced and has been gifted teachings from an Elder or knowledge keeper (for example this could be a student, staff or community member).
2. If smudging is to take place in a division building it will be in a designated area. An adult must light the smudge in an appropriate vessel such as a shell or smudge pan, and the smudge must never be left unattended.
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 burnt-out or reduced to ash 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. They may later be buried or disposed of outside on the land which they came from.
  - 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.