

AP 162 - SMOKE AND VAPOUR FREE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The District strives to promote and safeguard, through all reasonable means, the physical, emotional and mental health of District students and employees.

The District is committed to providing healthy smoke- and electronic smoking products-free learning and working environments for all students and employees.

Procedures

1. Principals shall make students, staff (including non-teaching) and parents aware of this Administrative Procedure at the beginning of each school year. This is to be placed in each school's September newsletter.
2. "NO SMOKING OR VAPING" signs shall be prominently displayed in all buildings and on grounds.
3. The Director of Operations shall inform all support employees in the Facilities, Maintenance, Grounds and Transportation departments of this Administrative Procedure at the beginning of each school year.
4. Designated school smoking areas are prohibited.
5. School property includes District-owned vehicles that are used for the purposes of delivering education programs, for transportation or used by the Maintenance Department.
6. This Administrative Procedure also applies to all user groups on school property. This must be conveyed to the user groups when applying for rental of facilities or grounds.
7. Early learning and adult learning centers are also covered under this Administrative Procedure.
8. There is an exception for ceremonial use of tobacco that is performed in relation to a traditional Indigenous cultural activity.
9. It is an offence to violate the smoking and vaping ban. Not only the smoker, but also the Board, the Superintendent and the Principal may be charged. They can defend a charge by showing that they exercised "due diligence" to prevent the contravention.

Reference: Sections 6, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 85 School Act
Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Act
School Regulation 265/89
Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act

Adopted: October 8, 1997

Amended: June 20, 2007; April 30, 2014; September 1, 2018

AP 162 - APPENDIX - 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