



## POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

<b>SUBJECT:</b>  Smudging, Pipe Ceremonies and other Aboriginal Ceremonial Use of Smoke	<b>CATEGORY:</b>  Student Services	<b>NO.</b>  1215
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### PREAMBLE

Saskatchewan Polytechnic embraces diverse cultures, heritages and opinions in its efforts to enrich the learning and work environment and foster inclusive decision making. As such, Saskatchewan Polytechnic promotes a culture designed to enhance the growth of a welcoming, nurturing and empowering environment.

### APPLICATION

This policy applies to Saskatchewan Polytechnic board members, employees, students, third-party tenants, contractors, and the general public.

### POLICY

In conjunction with *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996* and *The Tobacco Control Act*, and in keeping with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's commitment to a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment, where facility space allows, Saskatchewan Polytechnic permits the burning of sweetgrass, sage, cedar, and/or other sacred herbs and tobaccos within its facilities and grounds for the purposes of smudging, pipe ceremonies or other Aboriginal ceremonial uses. These uses are permitted with prior notice and approval. All other smoking within Saskatchewan Polytechnic facilities is strictly prohibited (see Smoking policy).

### DEFINITIONS

**Pipe Ceremony:** Is a sacred ritual for connecting physical and spiritual worlds. The ceremony or ritual calls for an ospwakanēwīniw (pipe person) to raise and pray with a pipe for the purpose of asking for a good outcome in an event. The standard practice is to ask a pipe carrier/knowledge keeper to prepare the

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way for success in anything associated with Aboriginal endeavors, for health, for good relations and for goodness and peace.

**Smoke:** To smoke, hold or otherwise have control over ignited tobacco.

**Smudging:** Is a sacred Aboriginal ceremony that involves burning sacred plants, such as sweetgrass, sage and/or cedar, to purify people, ceremonial and ritual space, and ceremonial tools and objects.

**Prayer:** Purpose is often to cleanse, bless and purify the space or environment.

## **PROCEDURES**

A list of sites and specific equipment needs (e.g. fans, air filters, venting) to conduct smudging, pipe ceremonies or other Aboriginal ceremonies involving smoke will be developed for each campus by the local facilities manager in consultation with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic director, Aboriginal strategy or designate and the director of health, safety and security or designate.

Each site designated as an approved space for smudging/pipe or other Aboriginal ceremonies will be identified by a Saskatchewan Polytechnic sign (approved by facilities management, health, safety and security, and director, Aboriginal strategy or designate) noting the room has been designated for smudging, pipe ceremonies and other Aboriginal ceremonies involving smoke. When sites are used occasionally for smudging/pipe ceremonies and other Aboriginal ceremonies involving smoke, the person(s) organizing the ceremony will notify the facilities manager at least 5 working days prior to the event. The approved sign noting that smudging and/or a pipe ceremony or other Aboriginal ceremony involving smoke will be held will be posted by the facilities manager no less than 48 hours prior to the event.

A list of approved smudging/pipe ceremonies and other Aboriginal ceremonies will be available from the Aboriginal activity centre and facilities management office on each campus.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The facilities manager at each Saskatchewan Polytechnic location in conjunction with the director, Aboriginal strategy, is responsible for:

1. Compiling and maintaining a list of appropriate campus locations for conducting smudging, pipe ceremonies, including required equipment set-up.
2. Posting campus-specific criteria related to the use of smoke during Aboriginal spiritual ceremonies.

The associate vice president, facilities management in conjunction with the director, Aboriginal strategy, is responsible for:

3. Identifying, acquiring, and modifying a new space and placing it in service for these functions if an appropriate campus space cannot be made available.

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**RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Aboriginal Student Achievement Plan  
Smoking Policy

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS**

Section 77(3), *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*  
Sections 4(5) and 11(3) (c), *The Tobacco Control Act*  
*The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*

**AMENDMENT HISTORY**

- 1. Original issue date: March 4, 2015
- 2. Revision dates:
- 3. Scheduled review date: March 2020

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