



POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	Smudging, Pipe Ceremonies and other Indigenous Ceremonial Use of Smoke		
Policy #	1215	Category	Student Services
Policy Sponsor	Associate Vice-President, Student Services	Previous Revision Date	March 4, 2015
Policy Approved by	President & CEO	Issue or Revision Date	March 6, 2019
Procedures Approved by	Provost & Associate Vice-President, Academic	Review Date	March 2024

See the related [PROCEDURES](#).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote Cultural Safety and a welcoming, nurturing and empowering environment at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

SCOPE

This policy applies to Saskatchewan Polytechnic board members, students, employees, third-party tenants, contractors, and the general public with regard to the practice of smudging and cultural ceremonies at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Saskatchewan Polytechnic embraces diverse cultures and heritages in its efforts to enrich the learning and work environment and foster inclusive decision making.
2. The practice of observing religious and cultural traditions, such as smudging, within Saskatchewan Polytechnic facilities is intended to encourage an environment of Cultural Safety.
3. Saskatchewan Polytechnic will comply with all relevant legislation when arranging for smudging or other religious or cultural ceremonies involving smoke, including *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*, *The Tobacco Control Act*, and *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.
4. Saskatchewan Polytechnic will make reasonable accommodations to all employees and students as per its Reasonable Accommodations policy (# 712) while accommodating the cultural integrity of Indigenous traditions.

POLICY

1. 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, 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 Indigenous ceremonial uses.

2. These uses are permitted when practiced in accordance with the procedures of this policy.
3. All other smoking on Saskatchewan Polytechnic campuses and business locations is governed by policy #719, Cannabis and Tobacco Use.

DEFINITIONS

Cultural Safety: An environment that is spiritually, mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically safe for people.¹ Culturally safe practices include actions which recognize and respect the cultural identities of others, and safely meet their needs, expectations, and rights. Culturally unsafe practices are those that diminish, demean, or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual.

Indigenous Knowledge Keepers: Persons recognized and identified by an Indigenous community as being knowledgeable about Indigenous cultural practices or world views.

Pipe Ceremony: A sacred ritual for connecting physical and spiritual worlds. The ceremony or ritual calls for a traditional 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 knowledge keeper to prepare the way for success in anything associated with Indigenous endeavors, such as for health, good relations and for goodness and peace.

Smoke: To hold or otherwise have control over ignited materials and the burning of other herbs and elements that produce smoke.

Smudging: Is a sacred Indigenous 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.

RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Cannabis and Tobacco Use #719
Reasonable Accommodation #712

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

¹ This definition is informed by Policy Number 7311-20-004, Facilitating of Smudging Ceremonies, Saskatoon Health Region (Approved, April 11, 2016). See also, Nursing Council of New Zealand, "Guidelines for Cultural Safety, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Maori health in Nursing Education and Practice (2011).