

Administrative Procedure 159 – Appendix C

Appendix C – SMUDGING IN DIVISION FACILITIES

Background

Black Gold School Division (BGSD) supports initiatives that actively promote the successful implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, Competency 5 of Alberta Education’s Teaching, Leadership, & Superintendent Quality Standards, and the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples. To that end, the Division recognizes the importance of smudging for many Indigenous Peoples and permits the practice of smudging in Division schools, following the procedures outlined below.

Procedures

1. When smudging takes place in a Division building, the Principal shall ensure staff are aware of the protocol and its significance.
2. Before the first smudge can occur at a school or BGSD facility, the Principal shall contact BGSD based First Nations, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher.
3. The area designated for the smudging shall follow all proper fire-safety precautions.
4. Where possible and prudent to do so, a Smudge shall occur outdoors.
5. An indoor Smudge may be provided in a designated area building that:
 - a. Is well-ventilated and approved by the Facilities Department; and
 - b. Is equipped with a fully charged fire extinguisher.
6. Smudging ceremonies are led by a person who understands what a smudge is and why it is conducted. All smudges must be supervised by a staff member.
 - a. The person conducting the smudge shall be a(n):
 - i. Elder;
 - ii. cultural teacher;
 - iii. knowledgeable staff member;
 - iv. family member or guardian; or
 - v. student
7. When smudging ceremonies are completed, the supervisor must ensure that the materials are fully extinguished and disposed of in an appropriate manner:
 - a. Smoking or warm smudging materials need to burn out on their own;

- b. Smudge remnants and matches are to be placed in a metal can or box and saved; and
 - c. Smudge remnants are never to be placed in trash receptacles.
8. When smudging occurs in a Division building, appropriate signage shall be displayed outside the area designated for the smudging, and any other appropriate location, such as the main entrance or main office.
9. Students who participate in a smudging ceremony shall receive the Consent for Smudging in School form, this form must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school before the start of the ceremony.
10. To follow Indigenous values, participation in a smudging ceremony is always voluntary.
 - a. No one shall be forced or pressured to smudge;
 - b. It is okay for a person not wanting to participate, to stay in the smudging room and refrain from the ceremony, or to leave the smudging area during a smudge.
 - c. A smudging ceremony is conducted with respect being extended to those involved and those who are not involved.

Reference: Section 16 & 197, Education Act
ATA, Stepping Stones, Elder Protocols, 2018
ATA, Stepping Stones, *First Nations Traditional Plants and Uses*, 2019
ATA, *Teaching Quality Standards*, 2018
ATA, *Leadership Quality Standards*, 2018
ATA, *Superintendent Quality Standards*, 2018
Government of Manitoba, *Smudging Protocols and Guidelines*, 2019

Form: 159-1 – Consent for Smudging in School