

UPEI SMUDGING GUIDELINES

Dec 20, 2019

Purpose/background

Smudging is an Indigenous cultural practice and as outlined in 5.7 of the Smoke-Free Campus Board Policy this practice is accepted on campus.

Guiding Principles

UPEI is committed to the recognition and support of cultural diversity and recognizes that smudging is an Indigenous cultural practice, and therefore it is permitted on campus.

This guideline applies to smudging in all buildings owned or operated by the University and must be followed before conducting a smudging ceremony.

Conduct of Smudging Ceremonies

1. Locations: The Mawi'omi Centre located on the 5th floor of Dalton has a ventilation system specifically designed to accommodate smudging. The Chaplaincy Centre's Room #100 can also accommodate smudging. Smudging in these two areas is approved without prior permission. Doors, if applicable, are to remain closed to confine the smudge to within the room.
2. Locations that have smoke detectors are not recommended for smudging. Areas that do not have smoke detectors are suitable for smudging provided the area is equipped with a sprinkler system. Facilities will evaluate this for the requested location as part of the approval process.
3. Smudging Request Procedure:
 - a. Facilities Management is to be notified of the planned smudging ceremony and location in advance through their Work Order system for review and approval (10 business days preferred). Any concerns related to the proposed location will be discussed with the requestor at this time.
 - b. Facilities Management will advise the appropriate Area Leader (i.e. Deans, Chairs, Directors, Managers, etc.) in the vicinity of the planned smudging ceremony location as soon as it is approved. Notification will include the time and length of the ceremony. The Area Leaders must advise their faculty, staff and students of the smudging details (location, time, etc.). If an individual reports that they may experience negative health effects (i.e. allergic reaction, difficulty breathing, etc.) then the Area Leader must implement reasonable administrative actions to reduce the potential for any adverse health effects (i.e. safely reassign to an area until the smudge has dissipated).
 - c. The organizer of the smudging ceremony will ensure that adequate signage is posted where the smudging is taking place and the duration. At minimum, a smudge notification sign must be placed on the room door. The signage must remain posted for the duration of the ceremony and removed once the smudge dissipates.
 - d. Every effort will be made by the persons organizing the ceremony to confine the smudge to the immediate area. Where possible, windows can be opened to ventilate during the smudge, if necessary. In addition, persons organizing the smudge will note the nearest fire extinguisher location.
 - e. Smudging ceremonies may be held in outdoor locations on campus. Facilities Management should be informed and any concerns related to the proposed location will be discussed with the requestor at this time including ensuring that an adequate fire extinguisher (H2O) is provided.