

<b>Policy Title</b>	Smudging Policy
<b>Policy Holder</b>	Vice-President Indigenous Leadership, Partnerships, Strategies Vice-President Administration and Finance
<b>Policy Approver(s)</b>	President
<b>Related Policies</b>	Tobacco Use Policy
<b>Related Procedures</b>	Smudging Procedure
<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Storage Location</b>	Website - <a href="https://www.confederationcollege.ca/policies-and-procedures">https://www.confederationcollege.ca/policies-and-procedures</a>
<b>Effective Date</b>	2024-11-25
<b>Next Review Date</b>	2027-11-25

## Purpose

Confederation College acknowledges, respects and supports the Indigenous traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality on campus.

Increase awareness and create learning opportunities for the college community for cultural education with respect to Indigenous peoples and **smudging** practices as we progress on our path to reconciliation.

## Scope

This policy applies to all people and groups of the College Community, specifically in relation to Indigenous gatherings, cultural events and activities with students, staff and the community.

The Indigenous tradition of smudging includes the use of **sacred medicines**, which is a recognized practice in the form of a ceremony and is, therefore, permitted on campus.

This policy follows Fire Code Ontario Regulations 213/07 April 11, 2022, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070213> to ensure compliance with life safety protection equipment.

This policy follows the [Tobacco Use Policy](#) where an exception has been noted in item: Procedures (4-4-13 section 2.6): “Nothing in this policy precludes the use of tobacco as part of, and in connection with, traditional Indigenous cultural and spiritual purposes.”

This policy does not apply to buildings on leased college property that are not managed or under the direct control of Facilities Services. i.e. Campus Living Centre, Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

This policy does not apply to spaces leased for college campus use in the region. Site Academic Managers are to connect with the college leaseholder and landlord to review if smudging is permitted on these sites. Landlords and college policies and procedures would need to be reviewed to ensure all requirements are in place prior to smudging.

## Definitions

### Sacred Medicines

Gathered medicines from nature including sage (mashkodewashk), cedar (giizhik), tobacco (asemaa), and sweetgrass (wiingashk).

### Smudging

A traditional Indigenous cultural practice involving the burning of sacred Medicines. A smudge sacred medicine ball is burned primarily for cleansing and grounding to help create a positive mindset and space.

### Smudging Notifications Working Group

This group will consist of the Director, Facilities Services; Director, Indigenous Initiatives; Director, Public Safety; and Senior Manager, Communications.

## Governing Laws and Regulations

Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17s26>

## Policy Statements

1. Confederation College permits the on-campus use of the four sacred medicines in connection with Indigenous spiritual traditions and practices at social, cultural and educational events in alignment with the Tobacco Use Policy [Tobacco Use Policy](#).
2. Procedures for smudging in campus buildings are to be developed in consultation with:
  - Office of the Vice President of Indigenous Leadership, Partnerships, Strategies;
  - Organizational Effectiveness;
  - Facilities Services;
  - Public Safety; and
  - Communications.
- 2.1. Negahneewin Council will be provided the opportunity to review and endorse the policy and procedures related to smudging, via the Vice President of Indigenous Leadership, Partnerships, Strategies

3. Smudging is permitted at any time within the designated smudging areas within the Shuniah Building room C258 with the appropriate use of dedicated ventilation.
4. Exterior smudging activities are permitted at any time beyond 9 meters from any building entrance.
5. Roles, responsibilities, and processes for the implementation of the Indigenous cultural smudging on campus to be outlined in the procedure depending on the nature of the request for smudging, which could include but is not limited to:
  - 5.1. Urgent Situations - supporting individuals in crisis;
  - 5.2. Indigenous cultural events and activities - opening/closing ceremonies, blessings;
  - 5.3. Localized smudging in individual offices, classrooms or other internal areas brought forward for spiritual cleansing.
6. In the development of the procedures, the smudging notification working group shall take the following considerations:
  - 6.1. Be culturally sensitive and work to maximize the ability to smudge in various building areas.
  - 6.2. Create clear, consistent processes, roles, and responsibilities, including communications to ensure adherence, ease of arrangements, and implementation to support smudging on campus.
  - 6.3. Provide health and safety accommodation from environmental smoke to those who may have sensitivity or allergies to smoke.
  - 6.4. In alignment with the Ontario Fire Code 213/07, assured life safety, and security requirements are arranged to manage/maintain a safe and secure environment for the physical facilities concerning the following:
    - 6.4.1. Fire detection alarms – False alarms;
    - 6.4.2. Cross air contamination within building zones;
    - 6.4.3. Arranging for facility and security support resources that will be required.
  - 6.5. Procedures may include discussions and recommendations around smudging quantities and density of materials used, and timing required to meet the needs of the requested smudging. These factors impact the amount and duration of the presence of the smudge smolder/smoke.

## Non-Compliance

Non-compliance with this procedure will risk the delayed alignment of required resources and could result in an inability to support smudging requests.

In the event unauthorized smudging occurs outside the designated smudging areas, an incident report will be completed by Public Safety and forwarded to Senior Team for review.

## Revision History

Version	Change	Author	Date of Change
Original		VP Indigenous Leadership, Partnerships, Strategies VP Administration and Finance	2024-11-25