



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

POLICY: VPF/A #Ceremonial Use of Sacred Medicines

PROCEDURES: Included herein

APPENDIX:

CEREMONIAL USE OF SACRED MEDICINES

AUTHORITY: University Administration

RESPONSIBILITY: Vice President, Finance and Administration

Effective Date: September 9, 2013

Purpose:

The University recognizes that it is situated on Treaty One land in the heart of the Métis Nation. The University chooses to operate with respect for all Indigenous Peoples. This policy governs the Ceremonial Use of Sacred Medicines on The University of Winnipeg campus.

In recognition of the use of traditional medicines for ceremonial and spiritual purposes a policy is required to ensure the well-being of our students, employees, volunteers and visitors, as well as protection of the campus infrastructure and compliance with insurance requirements and fire regulations.

Scope:

This Policy applies to all University of Winnipeg property, owned or leased; all members of the University community (students, employees, visitors, and volunteers) and by members of the general public who are on University of Winnipeg property for any reason whatsoever.

Responsibility:

The Vice-President, Finance and Administration on behalf of The Administration of the University, is responsible for the development, administration and review of this Policy and Procedures, in consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Circle and the Associate Vice President, Indigenous, Government and Community Affairs.

Approved: September 9, 2013

Revised: March 13, 2014

Cross Reference: Candles on Campus Policy



Principles:

The University of Winnipeg recognizes traditional medicines including but not limited to Tobacco, Sage, Sweetgrass, Cedar, Kanikanik (green tobacco), Red Willow and Bark for ceremonial purposes. Products associated with spiritual practices from Indigenous cultures from around the world are also included in this Policy as long as those products are legal in Canada.

Smudging is an Indigenous practice involving the burning of sacred plants, which may include sweetgrass, sage, tobacco and cedar. A smudge may be burned for purification and to help create a positive mind set. The sacred plants may also be used in pipe ceremonies by pipe carriers, individuals who have been entrusted with that responsibility.

Under the Province of Manitoba's "The Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act" smudging and the use of tobacco in pipe ceremonies are permitted. The University of Winnipeg recognizes that the ceremonial use of sacred medicines is a part of the Indigenous traditional way of life and is therefore welcomed on campus.

Sacred medicines including but not limited to tobacco, kanikanik (green tobacco), red willow bark mixture, sweetgrass, sage and/or cedar may be used to conduct individual or group traditional spiritual practices including but not limited to opening/closing prayers, individual or group smudging, feasts, sacred circle ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, sweat/moon lodge ceremonies, pow wows and Indigenous drumming/singing in compliance with this policy.

Procedures:

All ceremonial and/or spiritual practices in which combustion or smoke will occur shall be subject to the following procedure:

- **Aboriginal Student Services Centre and the United Health & RecPlex** (as of official opening date). These facilities are equipped with appropriate ventilation. Application must be made to the staff of the Aboriginal Student Services Centre or the United Health & RECplex a minimum of 48 hours prior so that staff are in a position to respond to any questions or concerns about the presence of smoke on campus.
- **All Other Campus Locations** - No ceremonial and/or spiritual practice in which combustion or smoke will occur shall be permitted unless application has been made to the Physical Plant Office and the Security Office a minimum of 48 hours

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prior to the event. This is necessary so that Physical Plant has the time needed to temporarily decommission any smoke or fire alarms where the ceremonial/spiritual practice will be conducted and advise as to the location of an accessible fire extinguisher. Physical Plant and the Security Office will also be in a position to respond to any questions or concerns about the presence of smoke on campus.

Any violations of this Policy will be reported to the Workplace Safety & Health Committee which may result in an investigation.

Review:

This policy and the Procedures shall be reviewed at least once every five years.

Approved: September 9, 2013

Revised: March 13, 2014

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