



Policy Title:

## Ceremonial Use of Sacred Medicines Policy

University Classification & Policy Number:

A-002

Approval Body:

Administration

Responsible Designate:

The Vice-President, Finance and Administration is responsible for the development, administration, and review of this Policy.

Established:

09/09/2013

Revised:

22/05/2020

Editorial Revisions:

13/03/2014

Scheduled Review:

22/05/2025

### 1.0 Policy Purpose

This Policy outlines how The University of Winnipeg ("University") supports Indigenous ceremonial and spiritual practices and the parameters under which these practices can occur on the University campus.

### 2.0 Definitions

The following definitions apply to terms as they are used in this Policy:

**2.01 Sacred Medicines:** includes, but is not limited to, tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, cedar, kanikanik (green tobacco), red willow, and bark used for ceremonial and spiritual purposes.

### 3.0 Scope

**3.01** This Policy applies to the use of Sacred Medicines during all Indigenous ceremonial and spiritual practices at all University buildings and property, whether owned or leased.

**3.02** Sacred Medicines may be used to conduct individual or group ceremonial and 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.

**3.03** Products associated with ceremonial and spiritual practices from Indigenous cultures from around the world are also included under this Policy provided these products are legal in Canada.

### 4.0 Policy Elements

#### 4.01 Principles

**4.01.01** The University is located on Treaty One land in the heart of the Métis Nation. The University is committed to Indigenization, which means listening to Indigenous

voices, being inclusive of Indigenous perspectives and practices, and expanding the historical and cultural knowledge of all members of the University community.

**4.01.02** The University recognizes Indigenous peoples' rights to freely practice their ceremonial and spiritual traditions and welcomes these practices on its premises. Under Section 5 of *The Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act*, smudging and the use of tobacco in pipe ceremonies are permitted. This Policy ensures the protection of these rights in accordance with fire and safety code requirements.

#### **4.02 Permissions**

**4.02.01** The Vice-President, Finance and Administration has the authority to develop and revise Guidelines to implement this Policy, as appropriate.

**4.02.02** All ceremonial and spiritual practices in which combustion or smoke will occur from the use of Sacred Medicines shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements articulated in Appendix A: Guidelines for the Ceremonial Use of Sacred Medicines.

**4.02.03** All ceremonial and spiritual practices in which combustion or smoke will occur from the use of Sacred Medicines require 48-hours notice prior to the event taking place. Notifications shall be given in accordance with the Guidelines.

**4.02.04** In granting permission to any request, the granter may impose any necessary additional requirements for the health and safety of the University community and University property.

#### **4.03 Compliance**

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

### **5.0 Relevant Legislation**

- *The Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act (Manitoba)*

### **6.0 Related Policies, Procedures and Institutional Documents**

- Candles on Campus Policy
- Elders Protocol
- Smoking on University Premises Policy

## Appendix A: Guidelines for the Ceremonial Use of Sacred Medicines

The University of Winnipeg acknowledges that we are gathered on ancestral lands, on Treaty One Territory. These lands are the heartland of the Métis people. We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

The following Guidelines support the University's commitment to Indigenization and the importance of offering places for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the University Community to take part in traditional Indigenous ceremonies and practices on campus.

1. If an individual would like to include ceremonial and spiritual practices in which combustion or smoke will occur from the use of Sacred Medicines at an event on campus, they shall first contact the following University officials 48 hours prior to the event:
  - **Aboriginal Student Services Centre and the Axworthy Health and RecPlex:** Requests shall be made to the Aboriginal Student Services Centre or the Axworthy Health and RecPlex a minimum of 48 hours prior to the event.
  - **All Other Campus Locations:** Requests shall be made to Facilities Management and Security Services a minimum of 48 hours prior to the event so that Facilities Management can temporarily decommission any smoke or fire alarms where the ceremonial or spiritual practice will be conducted and advise as to the location of an accessible fire extinguisher. Facilities Management and Security Services will also be in a position to respond to any questions or concerns about the presence of smoke on campus.
2. Rooms 3C01 and 2MF09 do not require 48-hours notice as they are permanently set up for ceremonial and spiritual practices in which combustion or smoke will occur from the use of Sacred Medicines.
3. Practices in which combustion or smoke will occur from the use of Sacred Medicines shall only occur up to 30 minutes before the end of the scheduled booking to allow for ventilation before the next scheduled event takes place.
4. The door to the room shall remain closed during the approved practice.
5. The ventilation fan shall remain on for the duration of the ceremony.
6. The University may impose additional requirements for particular rooms to ensure the safety of the University community and property.