

Aboriginal Use of Traditional

Medicines (Smudging)

Issued by:

Effective Date:

Revisions:

**Introduction\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

George Brown College acknowledges that the use of the four sacred medicines (tobacco, sweet grass, sage and cedar) of the Aboriginal people forms part of Aboriginal cultures, practice and heritage.

This policy outlines the college’s guidelines with regards to this matter.

The use of tobacco, in particular, is given special consideration with respect to the [George Brown College Smoking Policy](https://insite.georgebrown.ca/human_resources/policies/benefits/Smoking_Policy.pdf).

Provisions for this are, in part, covered under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (formerly the Tobacco Control Act), as shown in the excerpt found at the end of this policy.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the use of such medicines is done in the safest possible and most respectful manner.

**Procedure\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The following steps must be taken prior to and when tobacco, sweet grass, sage and cedar are burned as part of Aboriginal culture and spirituality:

1. (a) The use of traditional medicines in the Native Student Centre on the 5th floor at 200 King Street East will be at the discretion of the Elder. Native Student Centre at Casa Loma room 335D.

(b) The use of traditional medicines in the office of the Counsellor/Coordinator, Room 524A at 200 King Street East will be at the discretion of the Counsellor/Coordinator. Or the Preparatory and Liberal Studies Office room 520A.

(c) The use of traditional medicines outside of the above areas requires prior notice of the use of traditional medicines be provided to the Manager Public Safety & Security and the Facilities Management Campus Manager 3 days prior to the burning of the medicines;

1. If traditional medicines are to be used as part of an event such as class, workshop or conference, permission must be requested 3 days prior to the event;
2. Any smudge may be burned in an earthen-ware bowl, large shell, or other fire proof object during periods of prayer and meditation;
3. There must not be excessive burning (to avoid tripping of fire alarms and/or sprinklers);
4. A fire extinguisher must be made accessible and a person trained in its use must be present. As well, provision of a small fire can filled with sand and a cover in the event sticks or braids need to be quickly disposed of (in the event of flares up).
5. An inspection must be made to ensure that the material has been fully extinguished at the end of the ceremony;
6. Room or rooms must be well ventilated.

**Smoke Free Ontario Act, 1994,**

13. (1) The purpose of this section is to acknowledge the traditional use of tobacco that

forms part of Aboriginal culture and spirituality. 1994. c. 10s. 13 (1).

**Non-application of Section 3 (Provision of Tobacco to Persons Under 19)**

(2) Section 3 does not prohibit a person from giving tobacco to an Aboriginal person who is or appears to be less than 19 years of age, if the gift is made for Aboriginal culture of spiritual purposes. 1994, c. 10, s. 13(2).

**Non-application of smoking prohibitions**

No provision of an Act, regulation or municipal by-law that prohibits smoking in a place, including section 9 of this Act,

* 1. prohibits an Aboriginal person from smoking tobacco or holding lighted tobacco there, if the activity is carried out for traditional Aboriginal culture or spiritual purposes;
	2. prohibits a non-Aboriginal person from smoking tobacco or holding lighted tobacco there, if the activity is carried out with an Aboriginal person and for traditional Aboriginal culture or spiritual purposes. 1994, c. 10, s. 13 (3).

**Place for traditional use of tobacco**

(3) At the request of an Aboriginal resident, the operator of a health facility, home or institution referred to in subsection 4 (2) shall set aside an indoor area, separate from any area where smoking is otherwise permitted, for the use of tobacco for traditional Aboriginal culture or spiritual purposes. 1994. c. 10, s. 13 (4).

**Guidelines for Aboriginal Use of Traditional Medicines (Smudging) for an Event**

* A person(s) must be designated to oversee the burning of traditional Aboriginal medicines;
* Any smudge may be burned in an earthen-ware bowl, large shell or other fire proof objects during periods of prayer and meditation;
* There must not be excessive burning (to avoid activation of fire alarms and/or sprinklers);
* Rooms must be well ventilated;
* A fire extinguisher must be accessible and a person trained in its use must be present.

*IF THE EVENT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE NATIVE STUDENT CENTRE OR OFFICE 524A and 520A THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO THE MANAGER PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY AND THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CAMPUS MANAGER 3 DAYS PRIOR TO USE.*

SPONSORING GROUP/EVENT: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF EVENT:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF EVENT: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DESIGNATED PERSON (S) TO OVERSEE THE BURNING OF TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL MECIDINES:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_