

LL #358709

IMDE-R  
IMDE-E-1  
IMDE-E-2

## **SMUDGING PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS**

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is working to help First Nation, Métis and Inuit students succeed in all areas and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to learn about the important role First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples have in the past, present and future of Canada. To ensure that schools are inclusive and culturally responsive to the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit student and staff, these perspectives are integrated into the curriculum and the school community. This policy and Regulation IMDE-R have been adapted from the draft document, Smudging Protocol and Guidelines (2019), developed by the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, Manitoba Education and Training.

The Division understands and acknowledges that First Nation, Métis and Inuit people are diverse in their languages and cultures. However, with this diversity, there are common characteristics that can be referred to as the Indigenous worldview or Indigenous perspective.

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is working to share this perspective with staff, students, and community to foster an atmosphere of respect, understanding and inclusivity. The Division offers learning experiences about First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures. By doing this we honour and show appreciation for First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions. One of the most commonly shared experiences is the Indigenous tradition of smudging.

Smudging is a tradition, common to many Indigenous people, which involves the burning of one or more medicines gathered from the earth. The most common medicines used in a smudge are sweetgrass, sage and cedar, and tobacco. Smudging has been passed down from generation to generation. There are many teachings on how a smudge is done.

The Division recognizes that smudging is always voluntary. People are never forced or pressured to smudge. It is completely acceptable for a person to indicate that they do not want to smudge and that a person may choose to leave the room during a smudge. Respect for all is the guiding principle in an Indigenous tradition, as we understand the meaning of consent.

Smudging allows people to stop, slow down, become mindful and centered. This allows people to remember, connect and be grounded in the event, task, and purpose at hand. Schools may make the tradition of smudging a part of their practice in particular events, as part of the school day.

See IMDE-R for additional smudging information.

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