

SMUDGING/ PIPE CEREMONIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

PREAMBLE

Smudging is an Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of sweetgrass, sage and/or cedar. Sage smudge produces a very strong and distinct aroma but the smoke associated with it is minimal and lasts a very short time. Sweetgrass has a very mild aroma and produces even less smoke than sage. A smudge is burned primarily for purification and to help to create a positive mind set.

Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies by a pipe carrier.

Under the Province of Manitoba's "The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act" smudging and the use of tobacco in pipe ceremonies are permitted. The University of Manitoba has recognized that smudging and pipe ceremonies are a part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life and are therefore permitted on campus.

In order to reduce the number of inquiries regarding the smell of smoke in buildings a notification email and phone number has been set up to contact when smudging and/or pipe ceremonies are to occur in areas other than those previously designated as permanent smudging/pipe sites.

Given the nature of smudging and pipe ceremonies, it is not always possible to provide advance notice that they will take place in a specific area. However, the Aboriginal Student Centre will have been informed and the room in question will be posted.