

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 250 SMUDGING ON CHILLIWACK SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Purpose

This Administrative Procedure outlines the steps for planning and approving smudging on Chilliwack School District property. It ensures that smudging is done in a culturally sensitive, safe, respectful, and inclusive way.

Background

Smudging is a sacred ceremony practiced by some Indigenous communities. It involves burning one or more sacred medicines gathered from the earth.

While teachings and protocols vary by Nation and family, four medicines are commonly used:

- xpá:y (cedar)
- sage
- sweetgrass
- tobacco

Smudging has been passed down through generations. Practices may differ, reflecting the diversity of Indigenous Nations and families.

Smudging often provides time to pause, reflect, and recenter. It is a spiritual practice of cleansing, preparation, and renewal. Many people use smudging to release negative thoughts or energy.

Smudging is a respectful and inclusive practice. Non-Indigenous people may participate when invited, provided they do so with respect for its cultural and spiritual meaning.

Participation is always voluntary. Anyone may choose to observe quietly or opt out at any time.

Procedure

1. Complete [Form 250A](#): Smudging Request.
2. Submit the request to the Site Administrator or School Principal.
3. The Site Administrator or School Principal will review the request with the Manager of Facilities. They will work collaboratively with the applicant to adjust the request if necessary.

Related Legislation: Nil

Related Contract Article: Nil

Cross Refs: BC Tobacco Control Act (RSBC 1996) Chapter 451, 2.2; Policy 280: Smudging; Policy 410 Smoke/Tobacco and E-Cigarette (Vapour) Free Environment

Adopted: February 15, 2015

Amended: March 31, 2026

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

Administrative Procedure



4. Anyone who may be directly or indirectly exposed to the scent or smoke must be notified. This includes staff, students, parents, guardians, caregivers, and visitors. The notification will include:
 - Time, location, and frequency of the smudging.
 - Type of material being used.
 - Name and contact information for any inquiries or concerns.
5. A [Smudging Notice](#) must be posted outside the designated spaces and in other areas that may be affected. The notice will remain posted, and the door will remain closed until the smoke and scent have dissipated. This may take up to 12 hours.
6. Concerns or feedback may be directed to the Site Administrator or School Principal, and the Manager of Facilities.

References

- [Policy 280](#): Smudging
- [Form 250A](#): Smudging Request
- [Smudging Notice](#)
- [Smudging Ceremonies: Supplemental Information](#)

Related Legislation: Nil

Related Contract Article: Nil

Cross Refs: BC Tobacco Control Act (RSBC 1996) Chapter 451, 2.2; Policy 280: Smudging; Policy 410
Smoke/Tobacco and E-Cigarette (Vapour) Free Environment

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