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**SUBJECT: POLICY ON SMUDGING AND OTHER CEREMONIAL USE OF SMOKE****Purpose:**

- 1.1** The purpose of this policy and its associated procedures is to provide guidelines to facilitate Aboriginal traditional, ceremonial, and pedagogical events while adhering to the *British Columbia Tobacco Control Act* (RSBC 1996- Chapter 451) regulating smoking in workplaces and in post-secondary educational institution. The University must comply with the law.

**Smudging and other Ceremonial Use of Smoke:**

- 1.2** Smudging is an Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of sweet grass, sage, cedar, and/or other sacred herbs and tobaccos. A smudge is burned primarily for purification of the physical location and of individuals and to help create a positive mind set. Typically the amount of material is small and the smoke associated with this ceremony lasts a very short time.

In addition to ceremonial use, smudging is also an integral part of general Aboriginal cultural practice including the start of meetings, counseling sessions, and other events and occasions including, but not limited to, pedagogy. When used for this latter purpose the classroom where the class is conducted is included as part of the purification process.