



## Policies & Procedures Manual

**Section:** CULTURAL AWARENESS - GENERAL

**Title:** SMUDGING POLICY

**# Pages:**

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**Policy Number:**

**CA-01-02**

**Approved by:**

Senior Executive Council

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**Replaces:**

New

### POLICY STATEMENT

In many Aboriginal cultures, four sacred medicines are used in assisting a person to maintain balance in one's life; these include sweet grass, sage, cedar, and tobacco. Aboriginal traditional spiritual ceremonies such as purification, pipe, sweat lodge, sharing circles, and feasts always begin with smudging. UCN acknowledges the importance of the smudging ceremony and honours the traditions with a UCN smudging policy.

### PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to support the traditional smudging ceremony and to provide direction to UCN

### PROCEDURES

1. UCN has designated ceremonial areas for smudging purposes. They are the:
  - a) Aboriginal Centres;
  - b) Elders offices;
  - c) Regional Centres as designated by the Regional Centre Coordinator in consultation with the communities.
2. In other areas of UCN not mentioned in #1, prior notice is required as a courtesy to those staff or students with allergies to smoke.
3. Special events such as pow-wow, graduations, and memorial ceremonies are required to provide notice of the event, such as the location, time and date before event takes place.
4. All Vice-Presidents, Deans, Directors are responsible for ensuring that their staff understand the importance of smudging and pipe ceremonies as an Aboriginal way of life, and encouraging staff to attend the information sessions offered at the Aboriginal Centres.