



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
FIRST NATIONS HOUSE OF LEARNING



GUIDELINES FOR SMUDGING AND CEREMONIES USING SMOKE
AT THE FIRST NATIONS LONGHOUSE¹

8 June 2011

Purpose

To ensure that smudging and other ceremonies using smoke at the First Nations Longhouse comply with UBC Policy 15: Smoking and Smoking Product Promotion on Campus (<http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy15.pdf>), and respect health, cultural, spiritual and other concerns of those who use the Longhouse.

Background

Smudging and other ceremonies involving smoke have been integrated into the cultural life of the First Nations Longhouse since it was built in 1993. While ceremonial leaders have tried to be respectful of the health, spiritual, and other concerns of those who use the Longhouse, there have been no guidelines established to support them.

In November 2007, the UBC Executive Council passed *UBC Policy 15: Smoking and Smoking Product Promotion on Campus*, which prohibits smoking and holding smoking products in enclosed spaces, and designates smoke-free and smoking areas. Policy 15 also allows for ceremonial use of smoke, as stated in section 3.3:

3.3 Exceptions: A person or organization may apply for an authorization to use *Smoking Products*, where permitted by law, in connection with culturally significant activities. Such authorization may set out any terms and conditions, breach of which shall void the authorization.

The following guidelines have been established to align practice with policy while respecting the needs of participants and non-participants in smudging and other ceremonies using smoke.

Covered Fire Pit and Covered Deck

The Covered Fire Pit north of the building and the Covered Deck at the far northwest end are the preferred and permanently designated sites for smudging and other ceremonies involving smoke. No notice or signage is necessary. The Building Manager will ensure that an appropriate receptacle for disposing ashes is available. Since both locations are outside, users are expected to refrain from smudging and other ceremonies involving burning during periods of extreme fire hazard (see <http://bcwildfire.ca/hprscripts/wildfirenews/bans.asp>).

¹ These guidelines do not apply to Sweat Lodge Ceremonies guided by FNHL Sweat Lodge Policy #19.

Sty-Wet-Tan Hall

On occasion those booking Sty-Wet-Tan may want to hold a ceremony using smoke. Users wishing to do so must notify the Building Manager. The Building Manager will:

- Include these guidelines in Longhouse Rental communications.
- Provide the users with approved signage to be posted outside of Sty-Wet-Tan prior to and during the ceremony.

Sty-Wet-Tan users will:

- Close the wooden doors between the Sty-Wet-Tan and the hallways during the ceremony
- Post approved signage outside of Sty-Wet-Tan prior to and during the ceremony
- Burn conservative amounts of plant materials during the ceremony to limit impact on air quality
- Air out the room after the ceremony by opening the doors to the outside.

Elders' Lounge

The Elders' Lounge is open to other areas in the building, and users who wish to smudge or hold other ceremonial practices using smoke during business hours are asked to use either Sty-Wet-Tan, if available, or the Covered Fire Pit and Covered Deck.

Under certain circumstances, such as the presence of visiting delegations, etc., the permission of the Director or Designate may be obtained to hold ceremonial practices in the Elders' Lounge. When possible, signage will be posted in advance in the adjoining study area. Other users in adjacent areas will be informed before burning begins.

Administrative Areas

Smudging and other ceremonial practices using smoke are occasionally carried out in the Longhouse administrative and other building areas. To reconcile these uses with use of these spaces as work areas and the needs of other users:

- Ceremonies will not be held during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) On workdays, ceremonies will be completed by 7:00 a.m. or begin after the workday ends at 4:30 p.m.
- The Building Manager will notify Longhouse faculty and staff by email 24 hours before the ceremony.

Please direct any questions or concerns about this policy to the Director or Associate Director, First Nations House of Learning.

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