


# North East School Division Administrative Procedure

 <b>AP 427</b> <b>Indigenous Cultural Practices</b>	<b>References:</b> <i>The Education Act, 1995</i> <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, 2015</i> <i>Occupational Health &amp; Safety Regulations (OHS)</i>	<b>Tracking:</b> New – November 2024 Posted – Jan. 2025
	<b>Related:</b> <i>AP 601 – Instructional Program</i> <i>AP 604 – Religious and Spiritual Instruction</i>	<b>Status:</b> Draft – November 2024 BOARD APPROVED – Jan. 2025

## INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PRACTICES

The North East School Division is committed to Truth and Reconciliation and supports the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing. Indigenous cultural practices such as smudging, pipe ceremonies, sweats and the use of tobacco are part of the Indigenous culture and are to be accommodated when appropriate procedures are adhered to.

### PROCEDURES

1. Participation in Indigenous cultural practices is always voluntary. People shall never be forced to participate.
2. The conducting of Indigenous cultural practices must be approved by Division or School Leadership in consultation with the NESD Indigenous Learning Coordinator and may involve Elders or Knowledge Keepers.
3. Staff supervision must always be in place during Indigenous cultural practices.
4. When students are to experience Indigenous cultural practices in support of curriculum, parents/guardians must receive notification at least two weeks in advance. Parents/Guardians may notify the school that they wish to have their child excluded from participation.
5. Smudging and/or pipe ceremony is permitted within NESD facilities in an enclosed space providing that:
  - i. The space is adequately ventilated;
  - ii. The space is of sufficient size to accommodate the event and meets capacity/fire code regulations; and,
  - iii. Signage is posted at designated space for recurring or one-time use.
6. Any requests for smudging and/or pipe ceremony outside of regular school hours requires the expressed consent of the school division and any community use agreements shall stipulate compliance with this administrative procedure as a condition of use. Failure to comply shall be cause for cancellation of the agreement.