

Purpose:

To establish a healthy environment, grounded in RPL's values, that supports community services, spaces, and technologies to inspire discovery, learning, and connection.

Objective:

The objective of this policy is to recognize Regina Public Library's commitment to diversity, reconciliation, and support for indigenous practices, including the burning of sweetgrass, sage, tobacco, and/or other traditional medicines gathered, from the earth, to be used in Indigenous cultural practices in its facilities.

Delegated Authority:

Executive Director, Service Innovation

Legislated Authority:

The Public Libraries Act, 1996, s.67

Other Relevant Documents:

- *The Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act*
- RPL No Smoking Policy

Application:

All RPL Locations

Definition:

Smudging: an Indigenous ritual cleansing ceremony that involves the burning of one or more medicines gathered from the earth, such as sweetgrass, sage, cedar, and other sacred plants. To smudge is to purify the mind and space and helps create a positive mindset.

Policy:

- 1.0. RPL is committed to working together with Indigenous peoples as we take important steps forward on the pathway of collaboration, reconciliation, and change.
- 2.0. RPL shall actively work toward supporting, introducing, and using indigenous practices, where appropriate.

- 3.0. RPL shall host programs and events based on, and using, traditional Indigenous cultural practices at its locations.
- 4.0. RPL recognizes that smudging, and the use of medicines gathered from the earth, are a part of Indigenous cultural or spiritual traditions. Some of the plants used in smudging and ceremony include sweetgrass, sage, cedar, and tobacco.
- 5.0. Elders/Knowledge Keepers shall typically be consulted in the planning of programming and events that involves traditional knowledge and First nations and Métis teachings to provide cultural direction and recommendations on such ceremonies.
- 6.0. The library will accommodate the use of ceremonial and cultural practices on its property to the extent that the specific area within any RPL facility (e.g., community commons, branches) in question can accommodate them, including the burning of sacred plants. For example:
 - 6.1. the facility's fire/smoke alarm system can be temporarily disabled to accommodate the use of smoke; and
 - 6.2. proper ventilation is available within the specific space in which the ceremony is taking place.
- 7.0. Ceremonies that involve the use of smoke will take place in designated areas within the library's interior or on library property.
- 8.0. Efforts will be made to ensure advance notification is provided to RPL staff, customers, and visitors to ensure awareness of the use of smoke in the building.
- 9.0. Preparations and steps to ensure safety of all customers and staff are outlined in the Indigenous Cultural Practices in Library Facilities Procedures document.
- 10.0. Inquiries regarding the use of this policy shall be directed to the Library Director and CEO's office.