

TOWN OF HIGH PRAIRIE

Policy Number 71-2018	Approval Date April 24, 2018	Resolution Number 178/18
Supersedes	Effective Date April 24, 2018	Legal Authority Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act
Amendments:	Amendment Date	Amendment Resolution Number

TITLE: **Smudging/Pipe Ceremony Policy**

Policy Statement:

The Town of High Prairie respects the spiritual and cultural practices of the Aboriginal community. The Town of High Prairie recognizes that smudging and the use of herbs and tobacco are a part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life and are, therefore permitted in public buildings owned by the Town of High Prairie, subject to proper safety measures.

Under the Province of Alberta "Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act: traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies are excluded.

2(1) Nothing in this Act affects the rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

Purpose:

The Smudging/Pipe Ceremonies Policy sets out the rules and best practices for conducting smudging and pipe ceremonies indoors at buildings owned by the Town of High Prairie.

Definitions:

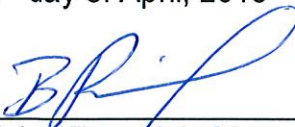
Pipe Ceremony: Is a sacred ritual for connecting physical and spiritual worlds. The ceremony or ritual calls for a pipe carrier to raise and pray with a pipe for the purpose of asking for a good outcome in an event. The standard practice is to ask a pipe carrier/knowledge keeper to prepare the way for success in anything associated with Aboriginal endeavors for health, for good relations and for goodness and peace.

Smudging: Is a sacred Aboriginal ceremony that involves burning sacred plants, such as sweet grass, sage and/or cedar, to purify people, ceremonial and ritual space, and ceremonial tools and objects.

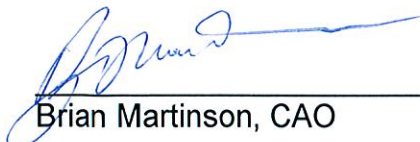
Procedures:

1. When booking a venue owned by the Town of High Prairie the event organizers must state their intent to have a smudging and/or pipe ceremony.
2. The smudging and/or pipe ceremony will be in a designated area.
3. The designated area must be approved by the Town of High Prairie Fire Chief.
4. Temporary ventilation such as fans or air movers will only be considered in small rooms or areas with low ceilings where there is a potential to accumulate smoke.
5. Smudging and or pipe ceremonies have the potential to activate a smoke/fire alarm. The facility manager or designate will confirm the location of any smoke/fire alarms.
6. If possible, and approved by the Town of High Prairie Fire Chief, smoke/fire alarms may be isolated or disabled only in the area of the smudging and/or pipe ceremony and only for the duration of the smudging and/or pipe ceremony.
7. The container that holds the smudge material must be heat resistant and made of a material that will not easily break with prolonged heat.
8. The container also needs to protect the floor or table where placed and if necessary, a fire blanket or other heat resistant insulation will be placed under the container.
9. The designated area must contain a fully charged fire extinguisher.
10. When the smudging and/or pipe ceremony has concluded, and the container is cool to the touch, ensure that the smudge is extinguished completely before disposal in an outdoor trash bin.

Approved by Council this 24th day of April, 2018



Brian Panasiuk, Mayor



Brian Martinson, CAO