

<b>Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology</b>	No. <i>SE13</i>	Page <i>1 of 2</i>
	<b>Approved by: Senior Executive Committee</b>	
Title <b>Traditional Aboriginal Activities on Campus</b>	Effective Date April 2013	Replaces Traditional Use of Medicines and Ceremonial Smudging Procedures

## **Rationale**

Cambrian College welcomes, respects and supports the on-campus, Aboriginal, cultural and spiritual practices associated with the use of the four sacred medicines (sage, sweetgrass, cedar and tobacco). Consequently, the College has established the following policy guidelines to ensure that the rights and freedoms of the entire community are respected.

## AUTHORITY

Tobacco Control Act, 1994, S.O. 10,1994, Chapter 10, recognize the traditional use of tobacco by Aboriginal people for the purposes of cultural and spiritual use.

Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms, section 1, ref. “Rights and Freedoms in Canada” and section 2, ref. “Fundamental Freedoms.”

Ontario Human Rights Code part 1, ref. “Freedom from Discrimination.”

## **Smudging and Pipe Ceremonies**

Smudging is an Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of sweetgrass, sage, cedar and/or traditional tobacco. A smudge is burned primarily for purification and to help create a positive mind set. Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies by a pipe carrier.

## Day-to-Day Use of Indoor Space

The day-to-day traditional Aboriginal activities of Cambrian College campus community may be conducted in the Wabnode area, specifically Rooms 2119C, 2119G, 2119H, 2119J, 2119K, 2133, 2133A, 2133B, 2133D, 2133E, 2133F.

These include smudging and pipe ceremonies done in the context of teaching, counselling, and ceremony. Permanent signage (with contact information) in the above stated areas will indicate that smudging occurs regularly in these areas. There will be no requirement to provide advance notice prior to the conducting of traditional activities in these spaces.

Aboriginal students, faculty, staff, Elders and cultural teachers are free to use sage, sweetgrass, cedar or tobacco to conduct individual or group, traditional spiritual practices such as: opening/closing prayers, individual or group smudging; feasts; Sacred Circle ceremonies; Pipe ceremonies; Drumming/Singing.

## Occasional Use of Indoor Space

When traditional Aboriginal activities, particularly smudging and pipe ceremonies, cannot be accommodated within the above indicated areas, other spaces on campus as identified and approved by Facilities Management and Wabnode can be utilized. This may include indoor spaces or the outdoor spaces of the Sacred Fire Arbour and the Tipi.

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Additional indoor spaces identified throughout the College include:

Small event space options

#1144 dance studio, #3506 NOARC boardroom, #2135 print making lab  
#1711 Skytech boardroom, #3203 ECE lab

Medium event space options

#1144 dance studio, #4226 Child & Youth Worker lab

Large event space options

#1830 eDome, #2305 Student Centre, #4406 Koski Centre, #2430 Gymnasium

#### Procedures for Occasional use of indoor space

The Special Events Coordinator will be notified 10 business days prior to the event. The Special Events Coordinator will put up appropriate signage indicating time and date of ceremony in the identified area 7 business days prior to the event. (The Facilities Management Director will be copied)

Once the aroma of the smudge/tobacco has dissipated, the sign shall be removed by the Special Events Coordinator.

#### Day-to-Day Use of Outside Spaces

There will be no restrictions within the cultural context with regards to the use of the Sacred Fire Arbour and the Tipi, but safety of employees and participants shall be ensured. A list of protocols and procedures will be maintained by the department to ensure the health and safety of employees and participants with regards to the Sacred Fire Arbour and the Tipi. Wabnode Centre for Aboriginal Services is fully responsible for the control of and use of these spaces.

#### Accommodation

In order to help facilitate support and understanding from co-workers education sessions will be organized and delivered through Wabnode. The importance of promoting inclusivity for the entire College community is acknowledged.