



SMUDGING GUIDELINES

MSVU Aboriginal Student Center & Student Residences

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) recognizes smudging is part of the Indigenous/Aboriginal way of life and therefore will be permitted to take place on campus in designated locations.

Smudging is an Indigenous/Aboriginal tradition which involves the burning of sweet grass, sage, cedar and / or tobacco. A smudge is burned primarily for purification as well as to help create a positive mind-set.

The MSVU Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC) will oversee smudging on campus and endeavour to provide as much notice as possible for planned smudging ceremonies.

Student Residence: Although smudging is typically not permitted in student residences, MSVU recognizes the importance of cleansing a space upon moving in. Any student who wishes to have their room smudged may make a request (at least two weeks in advance) to the Coordinator of Aboriginal Student Services in order to arrange to have their room smudged. The Coordinator of the ASC will make all efforts to accommodate these requests and will accompany the student to their room. Students are not permitted to smudge in their rooms without the presence of the Coordinator nor are they permitted to smudge their room at other times of year, as outlined in our Residence Policy. Students who wish to smudge their rooms upon move-in may do so as outlined in these procedures.

MSVU Aboriginal Student Centre: The ASC maybe used for smudging ceremonies providing the ASC Coordinator or a recognized Elder/Knowledge Keeper is present.

Notification: The ASC will notify Facilities Management about a planned smudging ceremony location **one week** prior to a scheduled event. Notifications will include the time of the ceremony, occasion/reason for the ceremony, as well as any other pertinent information. A sign indicating a smudging ceremony will be taking place will be posted directly outside the room door or in the nearest proximity of the location for the duration of the event.

Please Contact:

Veronica Gore

Coordinator of Aboriginal Student Services

(902) 457-6228 or email Veronica.gore@msvu.ca

