

## **1.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1 MacEwan University (the “University”) is a community of scholarship and service dedicated to the pursuit of truth and knowledge through teaching, research, and study. The University recognizes the creation of a culturally and socially diverse campus and learning environment that enriches the student experience through contact with a multitude of perspectives. The University is committed to the meaningful practice of Indigenous traditions and ceremonies on campus.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

- 2.1 This policy communicates the University’s commitment to honoring Indigenous Ceremonial Practices, upholding Cultural Safety, while maintaining safety and building standards, and establishes the principles and procedures to support this commitment.

## **3.0 APPLICABILITY**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all Members of the University Community while using University Facilities.

## **4.0 DEFINITIONS**

### **Cultural Safety**

When an individual or group is recognized and respected for their cultural identity.

### **Inclusive**

Includes all people without any discrimination of any group or person.

### **Indigenous**

First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada.

### **Indigenous Ceremonial Practice**

Practices that include smudging, which involves the lighting of traditional/ceremonial plants including but not limited to sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco. Ceremonial songs, which can include the use of rattles and drums. Indigenous Ceremonies include but are not limited to; pipe ceremony, Elder teachings, chicken dance, round dance, pow wow, feasts, sweatlodges.

### **kihêw waciston**

Translates to “eagle’s nest” in English. The term was given in a Indigenous ceremony for the new name of the MacEwan Indigenous Centre.

### **University Facilities**

Any land or buildings, or part thereof, owned or controlled by the University.

### **Sacred Space**

Immeasurable shared space between all living things whereby meaningful relationships are created based on the seven sacred teachings which are love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth. Sacred Space does not necessarily refer to physical place or location.

## **5.0 POLICY ELEMENTS**

### **5.1 Indigenous Ceremonial Practices**

- 5.1.1 Members of the University Community can exercise Indigenous Ceremonial Practices while maintaining health, safety and building standards.
- 5.1.2 Where a Member of the University Community wishes to participate in or arrange for an Indigenous Ceremonial Practices, they must follow the relevant procedure.
- 5.1.3 Protocols support the removal of institutional resistance, cultural and other forms of bias from all policies that restrict Indigenous Ceremonial Practices on MacEwan University property, while ensuring Sacred Space.

## **5.2 Responsibilities**

- 5.2.1 MacEwan University and kihêw waciston are responsible for education and training in relation to this policy, including providing support to students, staff and Faculty on proper respectful protocol, while ensuring cultural safety in all forms of Indigenous Ceremonial Practice.
- 5.2.2 Facilities is responsible for preparing University Facilities for Indigenous Ceremonial Practice.
- 5.2.3 Security is responsible for maintaining a safe place for learning and celebration.
- 5.2.4 Campus Services and kihêw waciston work collectively to ensure feast traditions are respected and honored.

## **6.0 ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES**

- Indigenous Ceremonial Practices Procedure

## **7.0 RELATED POLICIES, FORMS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action
- Campus Security Policy
- MacEwan University Smoking Policy

## **8.0 ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Policy Sponsor**  
President

**Responsible Office**  
kihêw waciston

## **9.0 HISTORY**

### **Relevant Dates**

Approved: **18.12.13**

Effective: **18.12.13**

Next Review: **23.12.13**

### **Modification History**

**18.12.13:** New policy. Approved by Board Motion 02-12-13-2018/19.