

1.0 ASSOCIATED POLICY

- Indigenous Ceremonial Practices Policy

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Elder

An Elder is any person recognized by an Indigenous community as having knowledge and understanding of the traditional culture of the community, including the physical manifestation of the culture of the people their spiritual and social traditions. Knowledge and wisdom, coupled with the recognition and respect of the people of the community, are the essential defining characteristics of an Elder. Some Elders have additional attributes, such as those of traditional healer.

Good Neighbor

Principles of friendship, mindfulness, cooperation, respectfulness and noninterference.

Inclusive

Includes all people without any discrimination on 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, round dance, pow wow, feasts and sweatlodges.

kihêw waciston

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

Knowledge Keeper

The term Knowledge Keeper does not refer to ones’ age, but rather to ones place within the community and the level of cultural and traditional knowledge that they possess. The term is bestowed by the community to individuals who are deemed spiritual and cultural knowledge holders.

University Facilities

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

3.0 PROCEDURE ELEMENTS

3.1 Education and Communication

- 3.1.1 Where appropriate, the Director of Indigenous Initiatives and kihêw waciston staff along with the Knowledge Keepers and Elders, will provide guidance and teachings for requests to host Indigenous Ceremonial Practice as part of courses, activities or events. Requests can be made to kw@macewan.ca

3.2 Respectful Preparation of Space

- 3.2.1 Signage will be placed at the entrances of the space, prior to the start of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice, to inform the public and participants of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice taking place. Signage is available through kihêw waciston and Facilities.

3.3 Being a Good Neighbor

- 3.3.1 It is the responsibility for the organizer of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice to implement the principles of a Good Neighbor and notify nearby spaces of the upcoming Indigenous Ceremonial Practice to ensure good working relationships with the surrounding spaces.
- 3.3.2 The organizer will:
- 3.3.2.1 Provide information to participants regarding the nature of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice for those with allergy or scent sensitivity concerns to accommodate themselves accordingly.
 - 3.3.2.2 Provide notification to Security Services and Facilities of:
 - 3.3.2.2.1 date and time of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice;
 - 3.3.2.2.2 location of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice; and
 - 3.3.2.2.3 type of Indigenous Ceremonial Practice.
 - 3.3.2.3 Place signage at the entrances of the space, prior to the start of the Indigenous Ceremonial Practice.

4.0 RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, FORMS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- MacEwan University Smoking Policy
- MacEwan Respectful Work Place Policy
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The Report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action

5.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

Responsible Office

Indigenous Initiatives and kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre, MacEwan University

6.0 HISTORY

Relevant Dates

Approved: **18.10.30**

Effective: **18.10.30**

Next Review: **23.10.30**

Modification History

18.10.30 New Procedure. Approved by President's Policy Committee.