



## The Centre for Aboriginal Student Services

### *Notice of Smudging*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please be aware that due to an Indigenous event occurring at the above location, smudging ceremony will be taking place that may produce an unfamiliar aroma.

#### **What is Smudging?**

“Smudging” is a traditional Indigenous ceremony that involves the burning of one or more medicines. The four sacred medicines used in ceremonies are tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass. These medicines are burned in small quantities and participants will fan the smoke, using their hands, over their head and body.

#### **Why Smudging?**

“Smudging” is the common name given to the act of cleansing ourselves and the air around us. The burning of these sacred medicines is a ceremonial way to clean our minds and for emotional and spiritual purification. It is common to smudge at the beginning of all ceremonies, gatherings and important meetings.

#### **Exemption from the smoke-Free Ontario Act**

Section 13: Traditional Use of Tobacco by Aboriginal Persons

Despite the prohibition from smoking in an enclosed workplace or enclosed public place, an Aboriginal person has the right to use tobacco if it is being used for traditional Aboriginal cultural or spiritual purposes.

#### **York University guidelines on scented products:**

<http://www.yorku.ca/dohs/doc/GuidelinesNotices/ScentedProducts/scentedproducts.pdf>

#### **York University Statement on Smudging:**

<https://aboriginal.info.yorku.ca/files/2020/05/York-University-Statement-on-Smudging-During-University-Events.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact CASS at 416-736-5571 or email: [cassinfo@yorku.ca](mailto:cassinfo@yorku.ca)

For more information about CASS please visit:

<http://aboriginal.info.yorku.ca>

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