


Chapter:	<b>Programs and Services</b>	Classification:	<b>Public Document</b>
Subject:	<b>Spiritual and Cultural Services</b>		
For:	<b>Entire Division</b>	 Authorized by Executive Director	

**1. Policy**

- 1.1 Correctional Services recognizes the need for individuals to understand their spiritual and cultural heritage to promote self-exploration, identity, self-respect and cultural pride.
- 1.2 Correctional Services will provide access to spiritual and culturally responsive programs and services to empower and engage those in custody and under community supervision in making positive changes in their lives.


**2. General Principles**

- 2.1 Spiritual and cultural programs and services will recognize, respect and affirm racial and ethnocultural diversity of all people.
- 2.2 Partnerships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and representatives from diverse Nova Scotia communities are essential in creating a sense of cultural safety and promoting linkages that will support reintegration.

**3. Program Types**

- 3.1 Cultural and spiritual activities include
  - 3.1.1 smudging, available daily in custody sites unless extenuating circumstances
  - 3.1.2 traditional sweat lodges
  - 3.1.3 carrying of medicine bags
  - 3.1.4 pipe ceremonies
  - 3.1.5 access to cultural and spiritual leaders
  - 3.1.6 cultural and spiritual celebrations
  - 3.1.7 healing circles
  - 3.1.8 cultural and spiritual presentations and educational sessions
  - 3.1.9 access to spiritual and cultural materials and resources

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3.2 Cultural programs are facilitated to empower and engage individuals in addressing criminogenic factors and increase likelihood of successful community reintegration.

**4. Indigenous Spiritual and Ceremonial Considerations**

4.1 The Smudge Kit will contain

- 4.1.1 eagle feather
- 4.1.2 bowl
- 4.1.3 red cloth
- 4.1.4 lighter
- 4.1.5 sage, sweet grass or cedar
- 4.1.6 tobacco

4.2 Superintendents, in consultation with Indigenous liaison officer, will establish local SOP that detail the gender specific requirements and limitations associated with Indigenous spiritual and ceremonial activities, including

- 4.2.1 smudging ceremony
- 4.2.2 sweat lodge

4.3 Costs associated with sweat lodges, including honorariums for Elders, will be paid from the proceeds of the Offender Trust Account. See Policy and Procedures, Subject No. 9.05.03, [Offender Trust Proceeds](#).

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