

Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space

The Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space is a newly designed communal teaching space on campus, located on the South end of Tindall Field. This space was designed as a multipurpose outdoor space that can be used to hold Indigenous ceremonies and events, as well as academic courses with a focus on Indigenous content and culture. The outdoor structure features a roof with open sides and circle seating with the **capacity to hold up to 30 people** and is wheelchair accessible.

Requests to use the space should be submitted by email to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (indigenous.initiatives@queensu.ca) who will review the request and create the schedule for this outdoor gathering space. In your email requesting this space, please include the type of booking and a brief description of the course or event.

Priority for the space will be given to the Indigenous community on campus, including Indigenous courses and events.

Please be very respectful and mindful of this space, leave it clean, and pick up any litter on the floor or benches after the gathering is over.

Smudging on Campus

Smudging is a ceremony using one or more of the traditional medicines (Sage, Sweetgrass, Tobacco, Cedar) which are burned to create a smoke to cleanse the body, mind, and spirit. Smudging also clears spaces of any negative energies.

Please refer to the [Queen's Smudging Policy](#) when planning an event where smudging will take place. All requests to smudge on campus must go through the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Campus Safety, and the ceremony should only be facilitated by an Indigenous person.

It is recommended that the person responsible for the smudge has previous experience conducting a smudging ceremony.

The OII and the University as a whole continue to work to both identify and create new spaces that may be smudged in at any time. In the meantime, there is the availability to smudge at 4 Directions Indigenous Student Centre if students are in crisis or urgent need.

Fires on Campus

In the event a fire will take place, you will be required to call the Fire Department beforehand (613-548-4001 > #0) and inform them you will be having a Sacred Fire. **IN ADDITION** to calling the Fire Department, you must also follow the [Queens Smudging Policy](#). All requests for fires in this space must go through the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Campus Safety, and the Fire Department. The fire should only be facilitated by an Indigenous person.

The firepit is located in the locked room of the Indigenous Gathering Space, for the key to this door please request a time to arrange pick-up and drop-off with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (indigenous.initiatives@queensu.ca). Firewood will not be provided, please bring your own, and it is recommended that the person responsible for the fire has previous experience conducting sacred fire.

[Queen's Smudging Policy - Environmental Health and Safety \(PDF 150KB\)](#)

