



# Tobacco Protocols

**(Note, tobacco should only be offered to First Nations or sometimes Métis peoples. Inuit do not value tobacco in the same way and so it should not be offered to them.)**

This is a guideline on how to make a tobacco tie when making a request to a knowledge keeper, Elder or First Nations person.

1. **Acquire Tobacco:** The Indigenous Education team has sent out tobacco tie kits to every school. If the tobacco in your kit has run out, please contact a member of the Indigenous Education team. Please also make sure you are storing the tobacco respectfully in a paper bag and where it will not be mishandled by anyone.
2. **Obtain Cloth:** In the tobacco kits that have been sent to all schools, cloth was included. The Indigenous Ed team will provide you with more if needed. You could also buy fabric to make your tobacco tie, preferably in colours such as red, yellow, white, green, purple or blue. You can purchase broad cloth from a fabric store or from [Turtle Lodge Trading Post](#).
3. **Preparing the Tobacco Offering:** [\(link to handout\)](#) The person making the request should prepare the tobacco tie or pouch. As you prepare the offering, it is important to think about what you are requesting, and to have good thoughts while you prepare the tobacco tie. Here are step-by-step instructions on how to assemble your tobacco tie:
  - Cut your fabric in a square (4 inches by 4 inches)
  - Put a small amount of tobacco in the center of the cloth
  - Fold all the ends of the cloth together
  - Tie the tobacco with a piece of yarn or hemp twine; you can also cut a strip of the fabric to make a tie. The materials should be natural to mother earth (i.e. no acrylic or party ribbon)
4. **Making a Request:** [Instruction sheet](#) Offer the tobacco tie or pouch when you make your initial request. To make a request, offer the tobacco tie or pouch by holding it in your left hand in front of you, state your request (be specific), and if the person accepts your



request, place the tobacco in their hand. An example of what to say when making your request and offering tobacco:

*I am offering you this tobacco for...*  
*...the opening and closing remarks at [name of event].*  
*...the smudging ceremony.*  
*...your guidance with \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Traditional Offering to Inuit Elders:** Inuit like to receive tea, berry jam, or some homemade item (baked, sewn, made) as an offering / request.

## Resources

[Carleton U Resource](#)

[DSIA Handbook](#). Look at pages 30-33 for a detailed description / activity on Tobacco tie protocol.

[The Importance of Tobacco \(Asemaa\)](#)