



Guidance for Research with Indigenous Communities and Participants

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to provide information on conducting research involving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada.

2.0 Background and Resources

Indigenous peoples include those who are First Nation, Inuit, or Métis. The University of Winnipeg recognizes the distinctiveness of all Indigenous communities across Canada and is committed to supporting Indigenous researchers, partnering with Indigenous peoples, and expanding knowledge related to the rights and responsibilities of the peoples in this area. Generally, working with Indigenous groups or on Indigenous land in a good way requires fostering meaningful relationships through trust building. This takes time, sometimes years. There are many ways to work well with Indigenous communities and participants but all require formal consent, and most Indigenous governments and Nations have a formal or informal process for research and engagement consent. Below is a list of resources to start out.

2.1 Guidance on how to engage respectfully in research with Indigenous peoples:

2.1.1 University of Manitoba Faculty of Health Sciences' [Framework for Research Engagement with First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Peoples](#)

2.1.2 University of Manitoba's [Working in Good Ways: A Framework and Resources for Indigenous Community Engagement](#)

2.1.3 Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre's [Guidelines for Ethical Research in Manitoba First Nations](#)

Guidance Document 9:
Guidance for Research with Indigenous Communities
and Participants



- x [Pulling Together: Manitoba Foundations Guide](#)
- x [Treaties in Manitoba](#)

2.4 Resources on Canadian Indigenous priorities, politics, and histories, written from the perspective of responding to settler questions about Indigenous research and issues:

Joseph, B. (2018). [21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation With Indigenous Peoples A Reality](#). Page Two Books.

Manuel, A. & Derrickson, R. M. (2021). [Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-up Call](#). 2nd ed. Between the Lines.

Tuck, E., & Yang, K. W. (2012). Decolonization is not a metaphor. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 1(1): 1-40.
<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/des/article/view/18630/15554>.

Vowel, C. (2016). [Indigenous Writes: A guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada](#). Portage and Main Press.

3.0 Scope of Indigenous Research

Indigenous research is any research that includes a major Indigenous component, which can include:

3.1 Research conducted on First Nations, Inuit, or Métis lands;

3.2 Projects where Indigenous identity is a criterion for research participation;

3.3 Research that seeks input from participants regarding Indigenous culture, heritage, artifacts, traditional knowledge, or traditions.



- 3) recognition of Indigenous peoples' contribution to the project (if desired by the community);
- 4) co-writing and co-presenting research findings with Indigenous partners and participants;
- 5) sharing the results of the research with the community in an accessible manner (if desired by the community); and
- 6) adjusting the research design so as to better fit the particular community's needs and priorities.

4.2.4 Responsibility – Responsibility includes accountability to Indigenous people for the knowledge put in your trust. Some of your responsibilities while working with Indigenous communities could include:

- 1) early involvement (prepare a comprehensive community engagement plan);
- 2) integration of scientific/technical work with Indigenous values;
- 3) commitment to cross-cultural education; and
- 4) balanced decision making/collaboration.

4.3 Note that Indigenous communities are distinct groups who may have specific additional ethical requirements and protocols. It is recommended that you always do additional background research into the specific community's ethical considerations prior to research.

5.0 The University of Winnipeg Indigenous Resources

- x [Elders Protocol](#)
- x [Indigenous Data Management: Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Action](#)
- x [Indigenous Insights Program](#)
- x [Land Acknowledgement](#)

6.0 Peer-reviewed Literature

Indigenous Research Methods and Methodologies

Andersen, C., & O'Brien, J. M., eds. (2016). *Sources and Methods in Indigenous Studies*. Routledge.

Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem, J., Lee-Morgan, J. B. J., & De Santolo, J., eds. (2022). *Decolonizing Research: Indigenous Storywork as Methodology*. Bloomsbury.

Barron-McNabb, Deborah. (2009). A Métis-Specific Gender-based Analysis Framework for Health. Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence, <http://www.pwhce.ca/pdf/metisGBAFramework.pdf>.

Castleden, H., Morgan, V. S., & Lamb, C. (2012). "I spent the first year drinking tea": Exploring Canadian university researchers' perspectives on community-based participatory research involving Indigenous peoples. *The Canadian Geographer*, 56(2): 160-179. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00432.x>.

Guidance Document 9:
Guidance for Research with Indigenous Communities
and Participants



First Nations Information Governance Centre. (2020). Strengths-Based Approaches to Indigenous Research and the Development of Well-Being Indicators. https://fnigc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FNIGC-Research-Series-SBA_v04.pdf.

Hart, M. A. (2010). Indigenous Worldviews, Knowledge, and Research: The Development of an Indigenous Research Paradigm. *Journal of Indigenous Social Development*, 1(1A). <https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/jisd/article/view/63043/46988>.

Kovach, M. (2021). *Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations, and Contexts*. 2nd ed. University of Toronto Press.

McIlduff, C., et al. (2020). Model of engaging communities collaboratively: Working towards an integration of implementation science, cultural adaptation and engagement. *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies*, 13(1): 45-69. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcis.v13i1.1346>.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (2020). A Culturally Relevant Gender-Based Analysis (CRGBA) Starter Kit: Introduction, Incorporation, and Illustrations of Use. <https://www.nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/A-Culturally-Relevant-Gender-Based-Analysis.pdf>.

Smith, L. T. (2012). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. 2nd ed. Zed Books.

Walter, M. & Andersen, C. (2013). *Indigenous Statistics: A Quantitative Research Methodology*. 565 07d2Tj Res

Guidance Document 9:
Guidance for Research with Indigenous Communities
and Participants



Hayward, A., Sjoblom, E., Sinclair, S., & Cidro, J. (2021). A New Era of Indigenous Research: Community-based Indigenous Research Ethics Protocols in Canada. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 16(4), <https://doi.org/10.1177/15562646211023705>.

National Aboriginal Health Organization. *Considerations and Templates for Ethical Research Practices*. National Aboriginal Health Organization, 2007, https://achh.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Guide_Community_FNC_ConsiderationsandTemplates.pdf.

Indigenous Evaluation

Chandna, K., Vine, M. M., Snelling, S., Harris, R., Smylie, J., & Manson, H. (2019). Principles, approaches, and methods for evaluation in indigenous contexts: A grey literature scoping review. *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, 34(1): 21-47. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjpe.43050>

Johnston-Goodstar, K. (2012). Decolonizing evaluation: The necessity of evaluation advisory groups in Indigenous evaluation. In R. VeLure Roholt & M. L. Baizerman (Eds.), *Evaluation advisory groups. New Directions for Evaluation*, 136, 109–117.

Kawakami, A. J., Aton, K., Cram, F., Lai, M. K., & Porima, L. (2008). Improving the Practice of Evaluation through Indigenous Values and Methods: Decolonizing Evaluation Practice—Returning the Gaze from Hawai'i and Aotearoa. In N. L. Smith & P. R. Brandon (Eds.) *Fundamental Issues in Evaluation* (pp. 219-242). The Guildford PTd [(e)1134F [(()-6 (1)s)-2 (i)1i62 (i)2.6deNs

Guidance Document 9:
Guidance for Research with Indigenous Communities
and Participants



Estey, E., Smylie, J., & Macaulay A. (2009). Aboriginal Knowledge Translation: Understanding and Respecting the Distinct Needs of Aboriginal Communities in Research. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/aboriginal_knowledge_translation_e.pdf.

Smylie, J. K. (2011). Knowledge Translation and Indigenous Communities: A Decolonizing Perspective. In