

Aanischaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute – General Statement of Research Principlesⁱ

Executive Summary

This document outlines the guiding principles that are in development at ACCI to determine the suitability of research proposals that are received from external (non Cree community members) individuals and organisations while the formal Research Policy is being drafted. These principles are the results of research done in 2018 with a Literature Review of existing Indigenous Research protocols. The overriding principle is that research must be meaningful to Cree communities.

Key Research Principles

1. Research must be useful for Cree communities
 - Research must follow the guiding principles laid out by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres [OFIFC]: Utility, Self-Voicing, Access, Inter-relationality, “which prescribe that research, knowledge, and practice are authored by communities, which are fully recognized as knowledge holders and knowledge creators” (OFIFC).
 - Research must follow the OCAP principles: Ownership, Control, Access and Protection (OCAP).
2. Research must be done with or by Cree community members
 - External researchers / allies “must not speak for” Cree communities, “or claim to represent them in any way” (OFIFC).
 - External researchers must respect that there may be areas of knowledge or information that Cree communities or community members chose not to share / disclose (OFIFC).
3. Publications must have Cree community members as co-authors
 - External researchers “must always ask for permission to use any aspects/findings/elements of research or research framework in any of their presentations: oral or written. If permission is granted, they are expected to present with community members actively participating as co-authors...” (OFIFC).
4. External researcher commitments
 - Researchers from Canadian universities must submit their ethics review proposals.
 - Research not affiliated with Canadian universities must follow the protocols laid out in TCPS2.
 - Research not affiliated with Canadian universities must complete this free online certificate in Research Ethics <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>.
 - All research must respect knowledge and world views of Cree community members (UAKN).
 - Research methodologies must be in line with Cree values (UAKN).
 - There must be accountability between external researchers and the community (UAKN).

Suggestions for Next Steps

1. Draft more comprehensive research policy draft for review Spring 2019 that includes details about research agreements, intellectual property, the approval / review process, ownership of data etc.
2. Formulate research approval process (2-3 staff from ACCI, 5 nominated community representatives)

Resources

1. (OFIFC) Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres Research Presentation Protocol 2012.
2. (UAKN) Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network. Guiding Ethical Principles 2013.
3. (TCPS2) Social Sciences Humanities Research Council. Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2, especially Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples of Canada 2010.
4. (OCAP) First Nations Information Governance Centre. The First Nations Principles of OCAP.

Existing Models to Consider

In a literature review undertaken in 2018 these documents were identified as models that we may want to follow or consult in more details:

1. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Nunavut Research Institute, “Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities- A Guide for Researchers”.
2. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, “Negotiating Research Relationships: A Guide for Communities: (1998).
3. The Kahniakehaka Nation Research Advisory Committee. “Akwesasne Good Mind Research Protocol.”
4. Mi’kmaq Ethics Watch, “Mi’kmaq Research Principles and Protocols – Conducting Research with and/or among Mi’kmaq People.”
5. Six Nations Council Research Ethics Committee Protocol.
6. Six Nations Council, “Conducting Research at Six Nations” (2014).

ⁱ Prepared for review at December 2018 ACCI Board Meeting.