

# Supporting Indigenous Research

Dalhousie - Office of  
Research Services





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# Dalhousie's Commitment

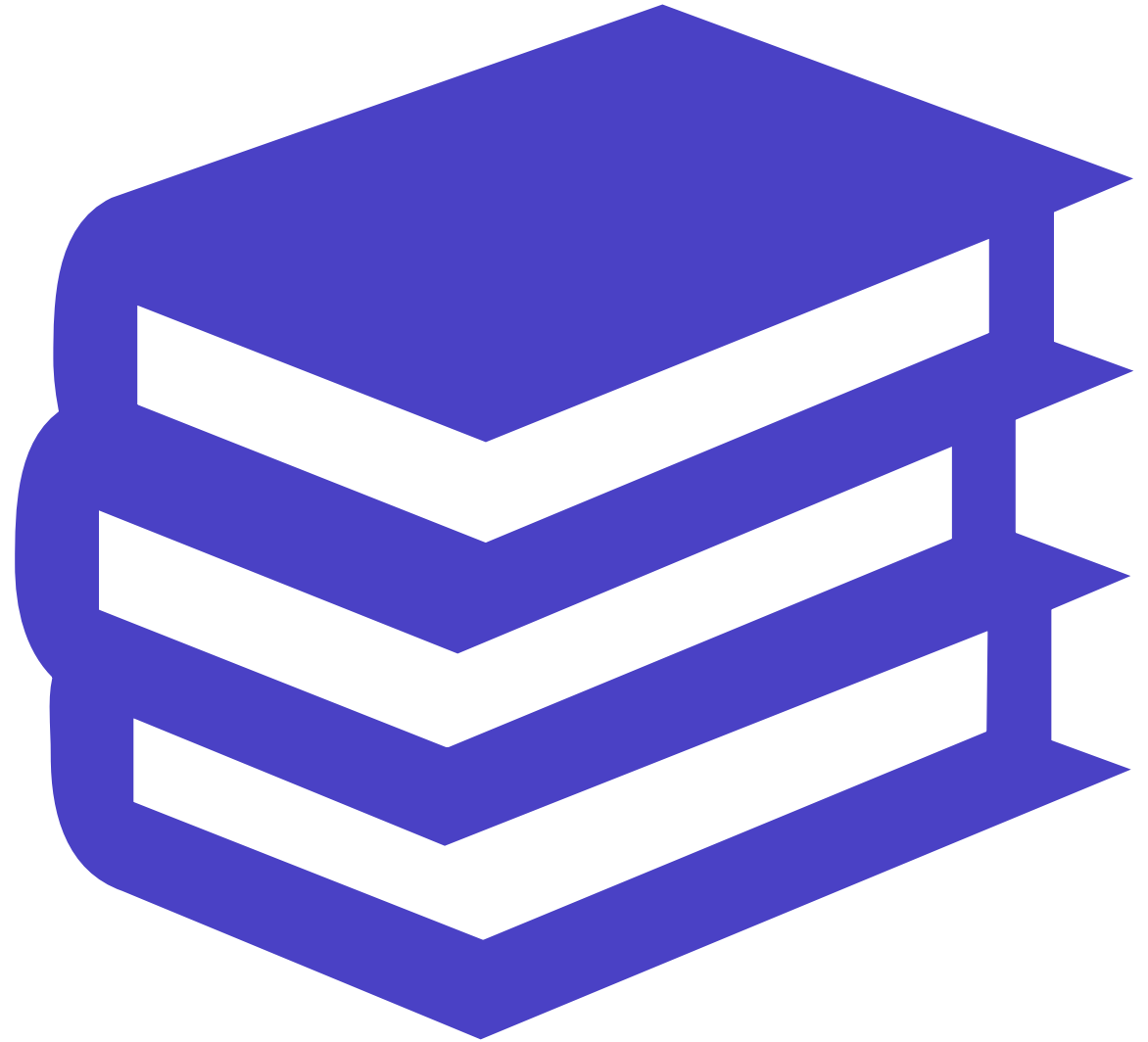
Si'st Kasqimtnaqnipunqekl Teli L'wi'tmasimk (Third Century Promise)



“Through the Indigenous Strategy, Dalhousie commits to improving access and success for Indigenous students, researchers, faculty and staff and ongoing transformation of higher education and research by, with, and for Indigenous peoples.”

# **TCPS 2 Chapter 9 - Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada**

## **Topic Summaries**





# Codes of Practice

“Researchers have an obligation to become informed about, and to respect, the relevant customs and codes of research practice that apply in the particular community or communities affected by their research.”

TCPS. 9.8

# Key Aspects in Indigenous Research - Chapter 9 Summarized

## Research Agreements

- Where a community has formally engaged with a researcher or research team through a designated representative, the terms and undertakings of both the researcher and the community should be set out in a research agreement before participants are recruited. TCPS 9.11

## Collaborative Research

- As part of the community engagement process, researchers and communities should consider applying a collaborative and participatory approach as appropriate to the nature of the research, and the level of ongoing engagement desired by the community. TCPS 9.12



# Summary cont.

## Mutual Benefits in Research

- Research should be relevant to community needs and priorities.
- Benefit the participating community (e.g., training, local hiring, recognition of contributors, return of results).
- Extend the boundaries of knowledge. TCPS 9.13

## Strengthening Research Capacity

- Projects should support capacity building through enhancement of the skills of community personnel in research methods, project management, and ethical review and oversight. TCPS 9.14

## Recognition of the Role of Elders and Other Knowledge Holders

- Researchers should engage the community in identifying Elders or other recognized knowledge holders to participate in the design and execution of research, **and** the interpretation of findings in the context of cultural norms and traditional knowledge
- Community advice should also be sought to determine appropriate recognition for the unique advisory role fulfilled by these persons. TCPS 9.15

# A research project requires community engagement when...

a) Research will be conducted on First Nations, Inuit or Métis lands



d) Indigenous identity or membership in an Indigenous community is used as a variable for the purpose of analysis of the research data

b) Recruitment criteria that include Indigenous identity as a factor for the entire study or for a subgroup in the study

c) Research seeks input from participants regarding a community's cultural heritage, artefacts, traditional knowledge or unique characteristics



e) Interpretation of research results that will refer to Indigenous communities, peoples, language, history or culture (*primary and secondary data*).

*In addition to these examples, there could be other situations that require community engagement, so if you're unsure, it's better to reach out to ask!*



**i** 1.7) \* In alignment with the Tri-Agency definition of Indigenous research and TCPS2 Chapter 9, does your proposed research include any of the following examples which could potentially affect the welfare of Indigenous people, communities or interests?

- research conducted on First Nations, Inuit or Metis lands;
- recruitment criteria that include Indigenous identity as a factor for the entire study or for a subgroup in the study;
- research that seeks input from participants regarding a community's cultural heritage, artifacts, traditional knowledge or unique characteristics;
- research in which Indigenous identity or membership in an Indigenous community is used as a variable for the purpose of analysis of the research data; and
- interpretation of research results that will refer to Indigenous communities, peoples, language, history or culture.

- Yes  
 No

**i** 1.8) If yes to the question above, do you currently have documentation indicating Indigenous community consent and/or partnership evidence for this project?

If yes, please upload documentation to the Attachments tab.

- Yes  
 No

# Data Analysis and Interpretation



- Researchers should afford community representatives engaged in collaborative research an opportunity to participate in the interpretation of the data and the review of research findings before the completion of the final report, and before finalizing all relevant publications resulting from the research. TCPS 9.17

# Data Sovereignty and Intellectual Property

- In collaborative research, intellectual property rights should be discussed by researchers, communities and institutions. The assignment of rights, or the grant of licenses and interests in material that may flow from the research, should be specified in a research agreement (as appropriate) before the research is conducted. TCPS 9.18

**TCPS 9.10 Community Engagement Documentation** - Where Research Ethics is concerned at Dalhousie, a Collaborative Research Agreement must accompany an REB proposal. Where there are other types of Indigenous Research, an agreement or other types of documentation would be expected to accompany a proposal.

## Agreement

A preliminary or formal research agreement between the researcher and the responsible body at the research site.

## Decision

A written decision or documentation of an oral decision made in a group setting to approve the proposed research or to decline further participation.

## Summary

A written summary of advice received from a culturally informed advisory group or ad hoc committee (*e.g., an urban community of interest*).

## Letter

Where a researcher has an ongoing relationship with a community, a letter from formal or customary leaders in the relevant community may signal approval.

## Rationale

Where community engagement is not being proposed, researchers shall provide a rationale acceptable to the REB., *e.g., participants are not identified with a community or that the welfare of relevant communities is not affected.*



**“Dalhousie’s partnerships and relationships with Indigenous communities in Mi’kma’ki will model respectful and meaningful engagement, including with the contemporary scholarship and wisdom of Mi’kmaw Elders, knowledge holders, and scholars.”**

**Si’st Kasqimtnaqnipunqekl  
Teli L’wi’tmasimk (Third  
Century Promise) 4.3.**



# More than a Checklist

## Position

- ✓ The researcher described their motivation for undertaking the project.
- ✓ The project objectives demonstrate alignment with community priorities.
- ✓ Indigenous partners are considered equal.

## Support

- ✓ There is clear evidence of Indigenous community support.
- ✓ Community is involved at every stage of the research.

## Paradigm

- ✓ The epistemology, axiology, methodology and ontology reflect Indigenous worldviews and values.

## Budget

- ✓ Community partners' and contributors' time and expenses are appropriately acknowledged and accounted for.
- ✓ Budget includes allocations for community gatherings and/or other types of cultural protocols.

## Sharing

- ✓ Community partners are involved in data analysis and interpretation.
- ✓ Data management, intellectual property and knowledge mobilization plans include cultural considerations and respect for protocols





**Additional Info:**

**Indigenous Research  
Resources @  
[dal.ca/research-  
services](https://dal.ca/research-services).**

**Wela'lioq**

