

Fish-WIKS Partnership Community Research Rubric

A tool for community decision-making



Fishwiks.ca

Fish-WIKS (**F**isheries – **W**estern and **I**ndigenous **K**nowledge **S**ystems) research looks at understanding western and Indigenous knowledge systems and explores how the different processes by which knowledge is acquired, transmitted and used can be harnessed to enhance Canadian fisheries policy.


Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant Program, the research aims to identify the commonalities and differences in Indigenous knowledge systems across the Pacific, Arctic, Inland and Atlantic regions and in four distinct coastal communities in Canada (Tla-o-qui-aht, British Columbia; Naujaat, Nunavut; Nipissing, Ontario; and Eskasoni, Nova Scotia). The project also seeks to understand how Indigenous and western knowledge systems can be used to improve the sustainability of Canadian fisheries.

The Fish-WIKS Research Partnership (fishwiks.ca) is led by Dr. Lucia Fanning, Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University in conjunction with the following partners: the Assembly of First Nation, British Columbia First Nations Fisheries Council, Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources, Government of Nunavut, University of Guelph, University of Toronto, Vancouver Island University and the communities of Tla-o-qui-aht (BC), Nipissing (ON), Eskasoni (NS) and Naujaat (NU)

HOW TO USE THIS RUBRIC


- First Nations/Inuit have the first and last say on research in their communities and within their traditional territory.
- The following rubric provides a basic framework for communities to consider potential research projects.
- The rubric focuses on **Respect for Rights and Traditional Governance; Respect for Community; Respect for Individuals; and Mutual Benefits**. It is based on tri-council ethics guidelines, community protocols, and general best practices in research.
- Community decision-makers can refer to each row of criteria to determine the most accurate statement about components of the research to determine the strength of methodologies, proposals and engagement based on guidelines, protocols and best practices.
- In certain instances, the community may wish to use the rubric for discussion purposes to help the community and potential researchers strengthen the project through an iterative process.
- In other instances, the community may wish to use the rubric to “screen out” proposals from unknown researchers or institutions where no prior relationship exists or may choose to use the rubric as an evaluative in-progress and end of project tool as well.
- The rubric is not exhaustive or definitive – communities can and should alter and/or add criteria based on their priorities.
- Community decision-makers can refer to each rubric to consider how the project relates to individuals and the community.
- Ultimately, the community must determine if all aspects of a project are acceptable. This tool cannot set that standard, but it can help communities determine the strength or weaknesses of potential research project partnerships.
- For the purposes of evaluating each criteria, this tool has three categories under community acceptability:
 - Acceptable – meaning the project meets an adequate standard for the criteria
 - Changes Needed – meaning that in its current form, the project does not meet an adequate standard
 - Not Applicable – meaning that the community does not feel as though the criteria is relevant to the community

PART A - RESPECT FOR RIGHTS AND TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE

CRITERIA	Relevance of Criterion to Community	COMPLIANCE LEVEL				COMMUNITY ACCEPTABILITY
		STRONG			WEAK	
Respect for Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has worked with the community to understand protocols about decision making, accessing knowledge, and accessing sacred sites, and has worked protocols into the methodology based on community engagement	The research team understands the importance of protocols with respect to decision making, accessing knowledge and accessing sacred sites, and has a flexible methodology to account for these protocols	The research team understands the importance of protocols with respect to decision making, but has not made clear accommodations for these protocols	The research team has not demonstrated an understanding for community protocols, nor a willingness to accommodate protocols into the research methodology	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Respect for Authority and Decision Makers	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team clearly understands and respects traditional decision-making authority and uses a strong community defined standard of free, prior informed consent	The research team clearly understands and respects traditional decision-making authority and uses a standard of free, prior informed consent	The research team clearly understands and respects traditional decision-making authority and uses a standard of basic consent	The research team does not understand traditional decision-making authority and does not recognize the decisions of decision makers from the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Respect for Territory	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low	The research team has a strong understanding of the community's traditional territory, recognizes the territory,	The research team understands and recognizes the community's traditional territory,	The research team has demonstrated a willingness to recognize and accommodate	The research team does not recognize traditional territory and does not respect	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	and has engaged with the community about any data collection or research within the traditional territory	engages strongly on aspects related to data or information collection solely on reserve land, and has a demonstrated willingness to recognize all interests within the traditional territory	interests on reserve lands and within the traditional territory, but has not demonstrated a strong understanding or accommodation of either	the jurisdiction of reserve lands	
Respect for Elders and Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team works closely with elders and youth through the community's preferred means/protocol to design, implement and complete research	The research team will work closely with elders and youth through the community's preferred means/protocol to implement and complete research	The research team will work with elders and youths, but not through protocol or preferred means	The research team will exclude youth and elders from the project	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Respect for Language	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team will hire members of the community for simultaneous interpretation (if applicable) and translate all data and documents into the community's language	The research team will hire members of the community for simultaneous interpretation (if applicable) and translate the final research into the community's language	The research team will hire members of the community for simultaneous interpretation (if applicable)	The research team will conduct all research activities and publish all documents solely in either English or French	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable


PART B - RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY

CRITERIA	Relevance of Criterion to Community	COMPLIANCE LEVEL				COMMUNITY ACCEPTABILITY
		STRONG			WEAK	
Relationship Between Researcher/Research Team and Community	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team and the community have a pre-existing long-standing positive relationship and the researcher is committed to investing in the community	The research team is committed to building a long-lasting relationship with the community beyond the timeframe of the project and is investing significant time to build a strong, meaningful relationship	The research team is committed to building a relationship with the community for the purposes of the project and is investing time to learn about the community	The research team does not intend to build a relationship with the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Research Team's Understanding of Community	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has a strong understanding of the community, its culture and diversity from long standing relationships, and the researcher regularly engages with the community	The research team has an understanding about the culture of the community and diversity of the community, and is continuing to build understanding through appropriate engagement	The research team has a poor understanding of the community, its culture and diversity, but is actively engaging the community in order to build a strong understanding	The research team has a poor understanding of the community and is not engaging the community to learn more	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Respect for Sacred Sites and Traditional Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low	The research team is aware and respectful of sensitivities regarding sacred sites and traditional knowledge,	The research team is aware and respectful of sensitivities regarding sacred sites and traditional	The research team is aware and respectful of sensitivities regarding sacred sites and traditional	The research team has not demonstrated awareness or respect for sensitivities	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed

	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	and has meaningfully worked with the community to develop the project in a way that reflects protocol	knowledge, and has designed adaptable methodology based on academic standards	knowledge, but has not collaborated with the community or created appropriate methodology	regarding sacred sites and traditional knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Respect for Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team works with the community consistent with protocol to interpret cultural information/data accurately and respectfully	The research team works with research participants to interpret cultural information/data accurately and respectfully	The research team will work with a set group of representative individuals to interpret some cultural information/data	The research team does not work with the community or with research participants to interpret cultural information/data accurately and respectfully	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Ownership, Control, Access and Possession	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	All data and research will be owned, controlled, accessible and possessed by the community, and the researcher will train the community to use the data	All data and research will be owned, controlled, accessible and possessed by the community, and the researcher will help interpret data for the community	All data and research will be owned, controlled, accessible and possessed by the community	The research team will retain sole ownership, control, access and possession of the data and research	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Acknowledging Community Participation	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has agreed to fully acknowledge all contributions of the community and to add community members as co-authors on publications	The research team has agreed to fully acknowledge all contributions of the community to the research within publications, except where issues of	The research team has agreed to acknowledge the participation of the community in the research within publications, except where issues of	The research team does not intend to recognize the contributions of the community within publications	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable


			confidentiality may exist	confidentiality may exist		
--	--	--	------------------------------	------------------------------	--	--

PART C - RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CRITERIA	Relevance of Criterion to Community	COMPLIANCE LEVEL				COMMUNITY ACCEPTABILITY
		STRONG			WEAK	
Understanding of Project	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has provided clear, easy to understand information about the project to potential participants	The research team has freely provided all necessary information about the project to potential participants; however, the information is not necessarily clear or easy to understand	Information about the project has been provided to participants upon request, but the information is confusing and is not made easily available	The research team has not provided adequate information to potential participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Explanation of Participant's Role	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has provided clear, easy to understand information about the roles and expectations for potential participants	The research team has provided all necessary information about the roles and expectations for potential participants	Information about potential participants roles and expectations has been provided upon request, but the information is confusing or not made easily available	The research team has not provided adequate information to potential participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Participants Have Opportunity to Become Informed	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team ensures that potential participants have frequent opportunities to ask questions and learn more about the project and their role in the project	The research team is accessible and available to answer questions about the research if participants express interest in further information	The research team answers questions about the research and the role of participants, but is not easily available or accessible	The research team has not provided adequate opportunity or availability for potential participants to ask question and learn more	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Participant Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has clearly established free, prior informed consent (FPIC), consistent with the definition of FPIC by the potential participant, and has set this out within a consent form	The research team has established free, prior informed consent as a standard for participation in the research, as demonstrated within a consent form	The research team has established basic conditions of consent as a standard for participation in the research, as demonstrated by a consent form	The research team has not clearly demonstrated a method to ensure the full consent of potential participants and has not created a consent form	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Ongoing Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Participants may freely exit the project at any time and data/information collected from the participant will be destroyed or returned immediately	Participants may freely exit the project at any time and data/information collected from the participant will be destroyed or returned upon request	Participants may freely exit the project at any time and the data/information collected will be destroyed/returned, but free exit has not been clearly explained	The research team has not clearly indicated that participants may withdraw and that the data/information collected will be destroyed or returned	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Participant Review of Information	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team will share all data and information derived from a participant with the participant, and allows for the participant to withdraw their data or clarify information before project completion	The research team will share all data/informed derived from a participant with the participant upon request, and this has been clearly explained in a consent form	The research team will share all data/information derived from a participant with the participant should the participant make a request, but this was not clearly indicated within the initial participant consent form	The research team does not intend to share all data/information derived from a participant with the participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

PART D - MUTUAL BENEFITS

CRITERIA	Relevance of Criterion to Community	COMPLIANCE LEVEL				COMMUNITY ACCEPTABILITY
		STRONG			WEAK	
Community Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team was collaboratively designed by the researcher and the community to directly address concerns or issues indicated by the community to the researcher	The research was designed originally by the researcher/research team in a way that is flexible to address community issues or concerns that are identified by the community	The research was designed by the researcher/research team and addresses issues or areas of concern for the community	The research does not address community concerns or issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Capacity Development	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has designed the project to build capacity within the community in ways preferred by the community	The research team has designed the project to build capacity within the community in ways determined by the researcher	The research team's methodology and funding may be flexible to build capacity within the community	The research team does not intend to build capacity within the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Relationship Building	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	The research team has clearly demonstrated intentions to build a long lasting relationship with the community, and between the community and the research institution	The research team has demonstrated an openness to building long lasting relationships between the community, the researcher, and the research institute	The research team is open to developing longer relationships with the community on the personal or research institute level	The research team does not intend to build a long lasting relationship with the community or to facilitate a long lasting relationship with the research institute	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

<p>Research Applicability</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<p>The research team will create end products that are usable and comprehensible to the community</p>	<p>The research team will create end products that are usable by the community</p>	<p>The research team has demonstrated an openness to creating products usable by the community but has not specifically set out these products</p>	<p>Neither the data nor the final products will be usable by the community</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Research Motives</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<p>The research team has clearly demonstrated that the research is aimed at community benefit, that no parts of the research will be used solely for personal gain, and that no data or information will be used for secondary research without consent.</p>	<p>The research team has demonstrated that the research will benefit the community, there will be no secondary research, and is open to working with the community to determine community benefit</p>	<p>The research team has not clearly demonstrated that the research will benefit the community, but the topic of research may have clear applications to the community</p>	<p>The research will not benefit the community</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable