

Indigenous Research Ethics Self-Assessment Tool

Note: Community engagement is a requirement under the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) (2018) for all research that is likely to affect the well-being of an Indigenous community or communities. The following self-assessment questions are not exhaustive, so the University Human Research Ethics Board (UHREB) may still request that you complete Section 4.0 if it determines your research will impact Indigenous peoples.

1. Is your research being conducted in First Nations, Inuit, or Métis territories?
 - If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Describe your community engagement plan, including any required formal permissions/approvals from community governance structures. Then include any formal permissions/agreements within this section.
 - Check to see if the Indigenous community/organization has its own ethical requirements/process/protocols for engagement and include this within your engagement plan and framework.
 - Describe how you will use Indigenous data frameworks to collect, store, protect, and share findings based on the leadership and decisions of the Indigenous communities/peoples.
 - If no, skip to #2.
2. Does your research have recruitment criteria that includes Indigenous identity as a factor for the entire study or for a subgroup?
 - If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Describe your community engagement plan with attention to which Indigenous organizations/agencies/partners will be involved in this recruitment activity and the extent of their involvement in your research (e.g., part of data collection/analysis/interpretation/dissemination).
 - Check to see if the Indigenous community/organization has its own ethical requirements/process/protocols for engagement and include this within your engagement plan and framework.
 - Describe how you will use Indigenous data frameworks to collect, store, protect, and share findings related to Indigenous identity based on the leadership and decisions of the Indigenous communities/peoples.
 - If no, skip to #3.
3. Does your research seek input from Indigenous participants regarding a community's cultural heritage, artifacts, traditional knowledge, or unique characteristics?
 - If yes, complete Section 4.0 and
 - Describe your community engagement plan with attention to how you have established or will seek reciprocal partnerships with the Indigenous peoples/communities/organizations participating in this research and/or how you will involve Indigenous peoples impacted by this research in an advisory/guidance capacity.
 - Check to see if the Indigenous community/organization has its own ethical requirements/process/protocols for engagement and include this within your engagement plan and framework.

- Describe how you will use Indigenous data frameworks to collect, store, protect, and share findings based on the leadership and decisions of the Indigenous participants and/or their community/organization.
 - o If no, skip to #4.
4. Does your research use Indigenous identity or membership in an Indigenous community as a variable for the purpose of analysis of the research data?
- o If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Describe your community engagement plan with attention to how you will ensure culturally appropriate assistance in collection and/or interpretation of any data collected from those who self-identify as Indigenous.
 - Check to see if the Indigenous community/organization has its own ethical requirements/process/protocols for engagement and include this within your engagement plan and framework.
 - Describe how you will use Indigenous data frameworks to collect, store, protect, and share findings related to Indigenous variables based on the leadership and decisions of the Indigenous participants and/or their community/organization.
 - o If no, skip to #5.
5. Will your research results include interpretations that refer to Indigenous communities, peoples, language, history, or culture?
- o If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Describe your community engagement plan with attention to how you will involve relevant Indigenous communities/organizations in the interpretations of your findings.
 - Check to see if the Indigenous community/organization has its own ethical requirements/process/protocols for engagement and include this within your engagement plan and framework.
 - Describe how you will use Indigenous data frameworks to collect, store, protect, and share findings based on the leadership and decisions of the Indigenous communities/peoples.
 - o If no, skip to #6.
6. Does your research focus on a larger community that is known to include Indigenous people (regardless of their proportion) and where Indigenous-specific conclusions are anticipated (e.g., a study of student retention in high schools in the Sault Ste. Marie district of Ontario)?
- o If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Explain how you will engage with the Indigenous community/population who will be impacted by your research within this larger community (e.g., convene an Indigenous advisory committee).
 - o If no, skip to #7.
7. Does your research focus on a larger community that is known to include a sizeable¹ proportion of Indigenous people and where **no** Indigenous-specific conclusions are

¹ While the Tri-Agency does not define “sizeable” in the TCPS 2 (2018), the University Human Research Ethics Board considers “sizeable” to mean what a reasonable person would consider greater than incidental numbers of Indigenous peoples, which will vary on a case-by-case basis.

anticipated (e.g., research on employment development programs serving residents of the inner city of Winnipeg)?

- If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Explain how you will engage Indigenous organizations/agencies to help recruit Indigenous participants and/or secure Indigenous representation on any advisory/oversight committees.
 - Describe how you will employ cultural sensitivity in collecting and interpreting your data.
 - If no, skip to #8.
8. Might your research incidentally involve a small proportion of Indigenous individuals without the intention of singling out or describing characteristics of Indigenous people (e.g., a study in a postsecondary or K-12 setting that does not meet any of the criteria above)?
- If yes, complete Section 4.0 and ensure that you:
 - Provide a rationale for why no community engagement is required; however, you may want to include a plan for how you will ensure culturally appropriate assistance in interpretation of any data collected from those who self-identify as Indigenous and/or an indication that you will seek community engagement if Indigenous identity in the data collection reveal anomalies that warrant more targeted research.
 - Please note that if your study is being conducted with a K-12 group in Manitoba there will likely be Indigenous children who may be in the child welfare system, so guardian consent will need to be sought from the Minister of Families.
 - If no, skip to #9.
9. Is your research based on publicly available information on Indigenous peoples as defined by the TCPS2 (2018) (e.g., historical, genealogical or analytic research based on public records, or data available or accessible in accordance with legislation)?
- Research involving information in the public domain and/or that is publicly available and protected by legislation does **not** require REB review. If the findings of this research may have an impact on the identity or heritage of Indigenous persons or communities, UHREB strongly encourages investigators to consider how they will minimize any harm by seeking culturally informed advice with the relevant community.
 - If no, select “no” in Section 4.0.

If you've selected “no” for Section 4.0, you are still strongly encouraged to provide justification as to why your research does **not** fit the criteria for this section, and if you choose not to provide justification, UHREB may request it.