



Memorial University Policy Statement on Research Involving Indigenous Groups

Memorial University is committed to diverse forms of excellence in research, including maintaining the highest ethical standards and supporting integrity in research. The conduct of research that involves Indigenous Peoples, communities, cultures and lands must be grounded in ethical conduct and respectful, ongoing communal engagement and relationship building with Indigenous Peoples, communities, organizations and governments.

The Research Involving Indigenous Groups (RIIG) policy is designed to ensure respectful engagement and build reciprocal and trusting relationships between researchers and Indigenous communities. Its goal is to ensure that Memorial Researchers respectfully engage and work with Indigenous communities right from the Concept Development Phase to the sharing of the Indigenous Research outcomes. RIIG captures the principles of Indigenous sovereignty and mutually-beneficial Indigenous Research. The policy offers guidance for Research involving Indigenous Peoples, as guided by Chapter 2 of TCPS2 and Indigenous Knowledges in the spirit of respectful relationships and communal engagements.

The Truth and Reconciliation report calls for new and better ways of engaging in Research on Indigenous Lands and in Indigenous communities. An anti-colonial and a decolonized approach to Indigenous Research requires respectful relationship, collaboration and partnership in all aspects of the Research, paying attention to relevant Indigenous protocols of engagement beginning at the Concept Development Phase to the sharing of the Research outcomes.

It is important to note that RIIG does not legitimize or delegitimize any particular Indigenous Group and cannot be used to (re)define existing autonomy and territorial control and ownership.

Indigenous is a generic term used internationally and it is acknowledged within RIIG that some Indigenous communities may refer to themselves differently. Nonetheless, the term Indigenous Groups is used throughout RIIG to include First Nations, Inuit and Métis of Canada, as well as diverse Indigenous Peoples from all continents around the world. RIIG recognizes that many Indigenous Peoples may choose to identify using unique terminology. As such, given the diversity and differences that exist among Indigenous Peoples across the globe, the application of RIIG to various research projects and contexts will pay attention to the particularities of diverse Indigenous communities across varied spatial contexts. Finally, it is important to note that RIIG does not override nor replace existing policies, protocols, review processes and consent requirements held by Indigenous communities, organizations and/or governments. Nor does it replace the other ethics or regulatory processes such as that expected by Research Ethics Boards (REB).

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