

CRDCN RESOURCE FOR RESEARCHERS

PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE WORK WITH FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS DATA

This document has been developed by CRDCN to serve as a resource for researchers working with data from First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities. The first section of this document reflects some fundamental aspects of CRDCN learning from and dialogue with colleagues working with First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities. The second section of this document provides a list of resources for CRDCN researchers to consult when working with data from First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities.

Note: This document is not a comprehensive guide, but rather, presents some *critical questions for researchers to ask before undertaking work* with First Nations, Inuit or Métis data.

A – QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE UNDERTAKING WORK WITH FIRST NATIONS, INUIT OR MÉTIS DATA

This section contains questions to help you: (1) determine if your planned research involves what can be understood as First Nations, Inuit or Métis data; (2) better understand First Nations, Inuit or Métis data sovereignty; and (3) plan your research if it involves First Nations, Inuit or Métis data.

A.1. Does your research involve First Nations, Inuit or Métis data?

If your research includes the following, it can be understood as involving First Nations, Inuit or Métis data:¹

- (a) Data on resources and the environment in Canada (for example, land, waters, wildlife, agriculture).
- (b) Data about members of First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities (for example, data obtained through administrative records and surveys by government or other organizations).
- (c) Data from members of First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities (for example, stories and cultural knowledge gathered by researchers).
- (d) Data contained in archives held by organizations that are not First Nations, Inuit or Métis (for example, data held by universities and museums).

If your research focus is on First Nations, Inuit or Métis data, it is important to design your research in a manner that recognizes and respects First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty.

A.2. Understanding First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty

It is important to have an understanding of what First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty means and how it is understood differently by different First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. As you plan your research, ask yourself:

- (a) Have all members of the research team undertaken training on issues related to First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty?
- (b) Do members of the research team have an understanding of how the First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities implicated in the planned research wish to be meaningfully engaged in:
 - i. the design of the research question(s)
 - ii. the analysis of the data
 - iii. interpretation of the analysis/results
 - iv. sharing the results
- (c) How is the approach of the research team moving away from the “five Ds” that tend to characterize data and research about First Nations, Inuit and Métis: disparity, deprivation, disadvantage, dysfunction, and difference?

If your answers to the above questions indicate that members of the research team do not have a strong grasp of the existing discourse about these matters, or that your planned research does not include engagement with

¹ This list is adapted from the First Nations Information and Governance Centre.

First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities implicated in your research, your research could have harmful results for members of those communities.

A.3. Next steps as you plan – and before you begin – your research

The following are important steps to take in planning and conducting your research to move toward alignment with principles of First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty:

- (a) Ensure that all research team members have undertaken training about First Nations, Inuit and Métis data sovereignty.
- (b) If your research identifies one or more First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, integrate items in Section A.2 above into your research design.
- (c) If your research does not identify one or more First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, seek input from First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations or communities on if/how your planned research may benefit First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and how to integrate items in Section A.2 above into your research design.
- (d) Include First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations as partners on the research project. Doing so can involve letters of support and community member participation on the research team. This is important for planned research that is aligned with First Nations, Inuit and Métis community priorities. This is also important for identifying risks of harm resulting from the planned research, as well as research design that will benefit First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

While the above guidelines provide some fundamentals, if your research involves data from First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities, please consult the resource list below as you are planning your research.

B – RESOURCE LIST

The resource list below includes websites for First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations, training resources, and links to resource documents related to data sovereignty and undertaking research with data from First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities.

B.1. First Nations, Inuit and Métis Organizations

First Nations Information Governance Centre: <https://fnigc.ca/>

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami: <https://www.itk.ca/>

Metis Nation of Ontario: <https://www.metisnation.org/>

B.2. Training for working with First Nations, Inuit and Métis data

- The First Nations Principles of OCAP™: <https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>
- San'yas Anti-racism Indigenous cultural safety training program: <https://sanyas.ca/>

B.3. Resources via Statistics Canada and federal research Tri-Council

- [“TCPS 2 \(2022\) – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada”](#) (from the Government of Canada, 2022).
- [“Indigenous Learning Portal”](#) (from the Government of Canada, 2022).

B.4. Understanding and preventing harms resulting from research with First Nations, Inuit and Métis data

- [“Using OCAP and IQ as frameworks to address a history of trauma in Indigenous health research”](#) (from the *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 2020).
- [“A new era of Indigenous research: Community-based Indigenous research ethics protocols in Canada”](#) (from *Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research*, 2021).

- [“Seeking consent for research with Indigenous communities: A systematic review”](#) (from *BMC Medical Ethics*, 2016),
- [“Community engagement approaches for Indigenous health research: Recommendations based on an integrative review”](#) (from *BMJ Open*, 2020).
- [“Negotiating and exploring relationships in Métis community-based research”](#) (from *Engaging with Indigenous communities*, 2016).
- [“Exploring the approaches of non-Indigenous researchers to Indigenous research: A qualitative study”](#) (from *CMAJ Open*, 2019).
- [““We’re checking them out’: Indigenous and non-Indigenous research participants’ accounts of deciding to be involved in research”](#) (from *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 2016).
- [“Improving health research among Indigenous Peoples in Canada”](#) (from the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 2018).
- Indspire website: [“https://indspire.ca/indspire-announces-the-creation-of-the-indspire-research-knowledge-nest-advisory-committee/”](https://indspire.ca/indspire-announces-the-creation-of-the-indspire-research-knowledge-nest-advisory-committee/) (2020).

B.5. Indigenous data, data governance and data sovereignty

- [“First Nations Data Sovereignty in Canada”](#) (from the *Statistical Journal of the International Association for Official Statistics*, 2019).
- [“National Inuit Strategy on Research”](#) (from the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, 2018).
- [“Principles of Ethical Métis Research”](#) (from the Métis Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization, 2011).
- [“The CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance”](#) (from the *Data Science Council Journal*, 2020).
- [“Operationalizing the CARE and FAIR Principles for Indigenous data futures”](#) (from *Scientific Data*, 2021).
- [“Data resources and challenges for First Nations communities”](#) (from the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre, 2016).
- [“Achieving strength in numbers: First Nations, Inuit and Métis health information”](#) (from the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2010).
- [“Exploring the data landscapes of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children’s early learning and childcare”](#) (from the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2020).

B.6. Other resources for working with data from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

- [“Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada”](#) (from Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2022).
- [“Guidance on the Use of Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada”](#) (from Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2022).
- [“A Path Forward: Toward Respectful Governance of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Data Housed at CIHI”](#) (from Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2022).
- Health Data Research Network web page on working with Indigenous data: <https://www.hdrn.ca/en/dash/working-with-indigenous-data>
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: [website with multiple resources](#)
- “Inuit Nunangat Policy” (from the Government of Canada, 2022): <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1650556354784/1650556491509>