

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH AT UNB



*Apacihptune Kcitomitahasuwakon
Weci Apc Mawi Wiksonultiyeq.
Wolastoqi Kcicihuwinuhticik*

“Let us revive the teaching of respect, to bring back the gift of working together.” Wolastoqi Elders

The building of mutually respectful relationships, and working collaboratively through all project phases are important principles in Aboriginal research. Another is that knowledge and other outcomes of the research will benefit the Aboriginal peoples and communities that guided and were engaged together in the work.

UNB is engaging in research with this ethical and methodological approach, and is committed to further growth and progress in this area.

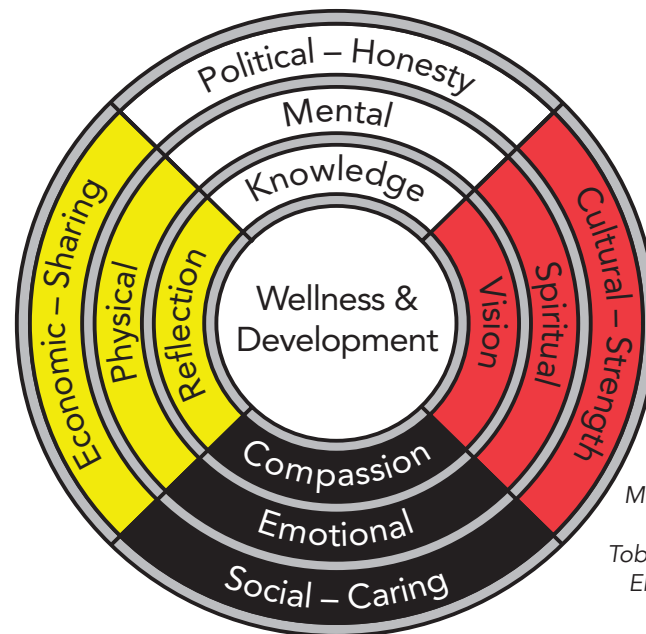
Meaningful collaborative research aligns with issues of importance to Indigenous people’s work of self-determinative growth, the resurgence of their rich culture, and promotion of their holistic well-being – whether living within traditional communities or in urban or rural environments outside traditional communities. The goal of holistic wellness

and development for Aboriginal peoples encompasses the cultural, social, economic and political aspects of community life, as well as the spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being in the individual’s life. Collaborative research with Aboriginal organizations and communities is carried out by UNB investigators in support of each of these areas.

Language loss is a significant cultural threat for Indigenous peoples. An important project in support of cultural and linguistic revival documented the spoken Wolastoqey language in educational, spiritual and cultural context through the recording of approximately 50 Elders telling the stories and sharing the wisdom passed down to them in their native tongue. Another cultural threat is posed by soil erosion, which is threatening valuable archaeological sites that hold stories of Aboriginal culture. UNB anthropologists work alongside Aboriginal communities to salvage these historical treasures.

UNB researchers have been involved in collaborative research in various areas of First Nations and Aboriginal economic interests, including sustainable stewardship of natural resources, information and communications technologies (ICT) resources, and potential funding models for Aboriginal enterprises.

Research Focus Areas



Artwork: “The Water Spirit Teaching Along the River” by Natalie Sappier

Medicine Wheel: as taught by the late Gwen Bear, Tobique First Nation, former Elder-in Residence at UNB

Within Aboriginal worldviews of community life is the understanding of the need of social wholeness within the community and between communities. Fairness, honesty, justice, the First Nation's self-determination and the goal of reconciliation are components of Canada's and the First Nation's collaborative efforts to be whole communities. Since the 1990s, UNB Law has been involved in research that explores legal and constitutional questions that relate to the rights, needs

and interests of Aboriginal Peoples including First Nations communities, Métis and urban populations.

Research is carried out in support of the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples, such as the exploration of the experience of Indigenous people in healthcare encounters. This and other research has the goal of improving health and

wellness support among the First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

Important actions in education are undertaken, such as Aboriginal involvement in shaping education policy to facilitate the passing on of cultural heritage to the next generation, and an extensive initiative promoting the development of literacy skills in young Aboriginal children.

24

Average number of faculty undertaking research in this area each year

\$1.34 million

Average amount of funding received for research in this area each year

17

Average number of research projects in this area each year

13 Faculties and Departments pursuing research in this area

- **Arts (Fredericton)**
 - Anthropology
 - History
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
- **Education**
- **Forestry and Environmental Management**
- **Kinesiology**
- **Law**
- **Nursing**
- **Renaissance College**
- **Science**
 - Biology
- **Science, Applied Science and Engineering**
 - Biological Sciences
 - Nursing and Health Sciences

5 Facilities and Groups conducting research in this area

- **Institutes and Centres**
 - Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP)
 - Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI)
 - Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research (MMFC)
- **Research Groups**
 - Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre (MWC)
 - Natural Products Research Group

1 Research Chair engaging in research in this area

- **Canada Research Chair**
 - Literacy and Human Development