

# Resources for Research *with* Indigenous Peoples.

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**The word itself, ‘research,’ is probably one of the dirtiest words in the Indigenous world’s vocabulary (Smith, 2012, p. 1)**

## Chapter 9 of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (2014)

**Article 9.1** Where the research is likely to affect the welfare of an Aboriginal community, or communities, to which prospective participants belong, researchers shall seek engagement with the relevant community.

**Article 9.8** Researchers have an obligation to become informed about, and to respect, the relevant customs and codes of research practice that apply in the particular community or communities affected by their research. Inconsistencies between community custom and this Policy should be identified and addressed in advance of initiating the research, or as they arise.

## Principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession

### Ownership

Refers to the relationship of a First Nations community to its cultural knowledge/data and collective rights to ownership of that information.

### Control

The aspirations and rights of First Nations to maintain and regain control of all aspects of their lives and institutions, including research, data, and information.

### Access

First Nations people must have access to information and data about themselves and their communities, regardless of where it is currently held.

### Possession

Possession of data is a mechanism by which ownership can be asserted and protected.

(First Nations Centre, 2007)



## Decolonizing Methodologies

**Decolonization...** does not mean and has not meant a total rejection of all theory or research or Western knowledge. Rather, it is about centring our concerns and worldviews and then coming to know and understand theory and research from our own perspectives and for our own purposes (Smith, 2012, p. 41).

- I. Whose research is it?
- II. Who owns it?
- III. Whose interests does it serve?
- IV. Who will benefit from it?
- V. Who has designed its questions and framed its scope?
- VI. Who will carry it out?
- VII. Who will write it up?
- VIII. How will its results be disseminated?  
(Smith, 2012, p. 10)

## Resources

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. (2014). Chapter 9: Research involving the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada. *Tri-Council policy statement: Ethical conduct for research involving humans*. Ottawa, Ontario: Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research.

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**An Elder who had opened the meeting spoke quietly from a corner of the room. “If we have been researched to death,” he said, “maybe it’s time we started researching ourselves back to life” (Castellano, 2004, p.98).**

