



The Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AIEDIRP

ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS SECRETARIAT



DATE: June 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ATLANTIC REGION PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES COVERING COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the relationship between the public universities listed below, as represented by their respective Vice Presidents of Research, (the Universities) and the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APCFNC) with respect to collaboration in economic development research and capacity building between the First Nations and Inuit of the Atlantic Region.

PREAMBLE

- The Universities (as well as specific colleges) have entered a partnership with the APCFNC to collaborate in the Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AIEDIRP). AIEDIRP is described in Appendix A.
- The objectives of AIEDIRP are: to conduct research on Aboriginal economic development; to build research capacity; and to share knowledge on Aboriginal economic development.
- The parties to this agreement are committed in the establishment of a long-term collaborative relationship based on principles of mutual respect, trust, and mutual benefit.
- To this end, this MOU spells out specific understandings concerning economic development research and capacity building that will govern the relationship.
- It is beneficial to both parties to have a common understanding that applies throughout the Atlantic region.

SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDINGS

- Representatives of the Universities, of the First Nation members of the APCFNC, as well as the Inuit from Labrador, will collaborate in the development and implementation of the AIEDIRP research program through joint representation on the AIEDIRP Steering and Research Subcommittees, through the organization of workshops and conferences and through other means as appropriate.
- When University researchers and other personnel are engaged to conduct research under this program, they will adhere to the *AIEDIRP/APCFNC Policy Statement on Ethical Requirements and Research Ownership* which specifies the ethics review processes, both

- Tri-Council and community-based, that are to be followed. The Policy Statement also allows for joint ownership of research products, if requested (see Appendix B attached).
- Funding for research projects and related initiatives such as conferences will, in many cases, be provided by the APCFNC. Proposals for research funding to be submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and other funding sources will also be encouraged through the Research Subcommittee of the AIEDIRP. This MOU does not require any of the Universities to fund research projects and related initiatives, but the Universities are expected, subject to financial and operation constraints, to assist with the implementation of AIEDIRP projects where possible.
 - Research conducted under the auspices of the AIEDIRP and involving university personnel will be considered to be grant-funded research and free from overhead obligations in view of the following:
 - (a) the collaboration between the First Nations, the Inuit, and the universities that is represented by AIEDIRP and by this MOU;
 - (b) existing policies of APCFNC and other likely funding sources that prohibit the charging of overhead (*in-kind contributions by the parties will be taken into consideration*);
 - (c) the fact that First Nation and Inuit people and communities are, on average, the most disadvantaged groups in socio-economic terms in the region;
 - (d) are in the process of making a historic transformation from colonial control and dependence to self-determination and self-reliance; and
 - (e) First Nation and Inuit people have historically experienced barriers in accessing post-secondary education and research opportunities.
 - The parties agree that in order to ensure that research projects and other joint initiatives carried out under the AIEDIRP contribute to capacity building in First Nation and Inuit communities they will promote the involvement of said personnel at all levels of the project, insofar as possible (e.g., as principal investigators, collaborators with communities or organizations, research assistants, etc.).
 - Wherever possible, opportunities will be provided for First Nation, Inuit, and other students to participate in the research projects, workshops, conferences, and other initiatives of the AIEDIRP.
 - Students who participate in the AIEDIRP research projects in fulfilment of thesis or major project requirements will be protected, insofar as possible, from delays, disruptions or premature termination of projects that would interfere with their ability to complete their degree programs. An agreement spelling out the rights and obligations of students in specific research projects may be necessary.
 - The parties recognize that the implementation of program activities under this MOU will in every case be dependent upon the availability of necessary resources, either from within the institutions concerned or from external sources. In the case of externally

funded projects, cooperative activities will be subject to the terms of the project of which they are a part.

- This MOU shall come into effect as of the date written above and shall have duration of five years, after which extension, amendment or other changes may be made as agreed to by the parties.



Dr. Anna Redden, Acadia University



Dr. Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University



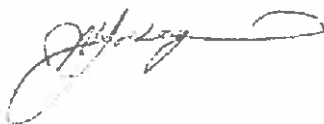
Dr. Alice Aiken, Dalhousie University



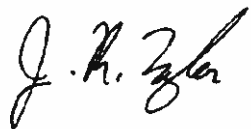
Dr. Neil Bose, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador



Dr. Jeff Hennessy, Mount Allison University



Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan, Mount Saint Vincent University



Dr. Jeffery Taylor, Nova Scotia Community College



Dr. Ann-Barbara Graff, NSCAD University



Dr. Richard Isnor, Saint Francis Xavier University



Dr. Adam Sarty, Saint Mary's University



Dr. Peter Toner, Saint Thomas University



Dr. Sarah Clift, University of King's College



Dr. Francis LeBlanc, Université de Moncton



Dr. David MaGee, University of New Brunswick



Dr. Greg Naterer, University of Prince Edward Island



Dr. Martine Béland, Université Sainte Anne



APC Co-Chair Chief Shelley Sabattis



APC Co-Chair Chief Robert Gloade



THE ATLANTIC INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAM (AAEDIRP)



THE ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS

APPENDIX A

Within Atlantic Canada there is a relative lack of data and research on Aboriginal economic development, which provides a challenge to government, regional leadership, and Aboriginal communities. In 2007, the Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AIEDIRP) was formed to provide much needed baseline data and evidence-based research on Aboriginal economic development to support decision making in the region.

The AIEDIRP is a unique partnership between the 37 member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APCFNC), the Inuit of Labrador, twelve Atlantic Canadian universities, and federal and provincial government funders. The main purpose of the AIEDIRP is to improve the knowledge base concerning Atlantic Aboriginal economic development to improve the lives of Aboriginal peoples in the region. To achieve this mandate, the AIEDIRP conducts research that is relevant to Atlantic Aboriginal communities and organizations by linking community needs with Atlantic university resources and by using community-based participatory research methods. The research projects approach community economic development from a broad, holistic perspective based on Aboriginal culture, languages, and direction from Elders.

The AIEDIRP's university and college partners include:

Acadia University

Memorial University

Saint Mary's University

Université de Moncton

NSCAD University

University of King's College

Cape Breton University

Mount Allison University

St. Francis Xavier University

University of New Brunswick

Université Sainte Anne

Dalhousie University

Mount Saint Vincent University

St. Thomas University

University of PEI

Nova Scotia Community

College

The AIEDIRP is administered by the APCFNC. The APCFNC is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1992 and incorporated in 1995. The APCFNC speaks with one voice on behalf of First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada. The mandate of the APCFNC is to research, analyze and develop alternatives to federal policies affecting Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu and Passamaquoddy First Nations in the Atlantic region. Through research and analysis, the APCFNC also develops and tables policy alternatives on socio-economic issues affecting First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and Maine, USA.

The APCFNC leadership and communities have developed stronger relationships with the Atlantic Region universities through the work of the AIEDIRP. This has benefited both Aboriginal communities and the universities. Learning has taken place on both sides about each other's cultures, processes, ways of knowing and teaching.



The Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development
Integrated Research Program (AIEDIRP)



THE ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS

APPENDIX B

**POLICY STATEMENT ON ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESEARCH
OWNERSHIP**

A. Preamble

The relationship between Aboriginal communities and the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APCFNC) collaborating researchers is based on the principles of partnership and mutual respect. For researchers, this involves openness to learning about what is required to participate in research with Aboriginal Communities and working within the spirit of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2018)¹ and the *Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession* (OCAP) overseen by the First Nations Information Governance Centre².

This document outlines the expectations of the APCFNC on matters of ethical review and ownership, which will be reflected in more specific and detailed agreements and proposals as necessary. With respect to ownership, any research project yields a variety of products such as field notes, data bases or reports. This policy document clarifies ownership of all products deriving from the research. Nothing in this policy statement takes away from the ownership of Aboriginal people and their communities to their Indigenous knowledge and heritage, in all the ways that is expressed.

In keeping with the principles of partnership and mutual respect, the policies outlined below seek to accommodate both Aboriginal and university procedures and protocols.

¹ The *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, 2nd Edition, 2010: https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html;
<https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/documents/tcps2-2018-en-interactive-final.pdf>

² OCAP: *Ownership, Control, Access and Possession*, 2007: <https://fnigc.ca>

B. Ethics Review Process

Researchers partnering with the APCFNC must comply with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2018) and the *Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession* overseen by the First Nations Information Governance Centre. When researchers contract with the APCFNC in their capacity as university-based researchers, the researchers are also required to comply with their respective university-administered ethics review processes.

If an endorsed, community-based ethics review process is available, such as the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch³, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI)⁴ or the Nunatsiavut Interim Research Committee of the Nunatsiavut Government⁵, the proposed research must also be reviewed by these processes.

C. Community Approval

If interviews and other forms of data collection are required in individual communities, approval from the appropriate authorities within the community, using the community's protocols established for this purpose, is required. Such protocols may require that community approval to conduct the research be obtained before a submission for ethics approval is made.

D. Ownership of Research Products

Research products such as notes or tape recordings of completed interviews, questionnaires and interview guides, data sets that may take the form of quantitative data files stored on computers and completed reports or profiles, typically result from collaboration between Aboriginal communities/organizations and the research team. Both parties contribute knowledge and other resources to the research products. Research products from the research are therefore jointly owned by the research teams and the communities; held in trust on behalf of the communities by the APCFNC, which commissions and guides the research on behalf of the communities.

E. Publications

Publication of research results going beyond the research report can occur when both parties to the research project (APCFNC and the research team) agree, following review and approval of the draft publication by the APCFNC.

Acknowledgement and other forms of recognition and participation (such as co-authorship) of those who have contributed to the creation of knowledge in the research project are required.

³ Research Principles and Protocols: Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch: <https://www.cbu.ca/indigenous-affairs/mikmaw-ethics-watch/>

⁴ Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Ethics Review Committee: <https://mcpei.ca>

⁵ Nain research Centre, Research Processes: <https://nunatsiavutresearchcentre.com>

F. Benefits

Any benefits derived from the research, such as royalties paid for publications, will be given back to the communities. This ensures that the primary beneficiary of the research done in Atlantic Aboriginal communities will be the Aboriginal communities themselves.

G. Storage and Protection of Raw Data Files

Raw data generated in the course of the research project, such as questionnaires, tape recordings and notes remain with the university or college-based research team during the period required by the ethics review process of their host university or college. University and college ethics review boards usually require that raw data files be retained for a period of five years. Decisions about whether these materials should be destroyed or retained at the end of the five-year period, and if retained under what conditions, are made jointly by the contracted researcher/s and the APCFNC on a case-by-case basis.

Non-university or college-based researchers are required to outline in their submitted proposal how they will secure raw data while they are actively engaged in the research. At the end of the research contract between the APCFNC and non-university or college-based researchers, non-university or college-based researchers will submit all raw data materials (e.g., notes, tape recordings) to the APCFNC for storage and protection. The APCFNC will retain the raw data for a period of five years in a locked filing cabinet and/or on a secure webserver. Decisions about whether these materials should be destroyed or retained at the end of the five-year period, and if retained under what conditions, are made by the APCFNC on a case-by-case basis.

H. Data Access, Use and Stewardship

Decisions about access to data by anyone outside of the research team conducting the research at the time the research is being conducted, and the use of data for secondary data analysis, will be made jointly by the contracted researcher/s and the APCFNC.

I. Student Participation in Research Projects

In keeping with the APCFNC-AIEDIRP objective of building Aboriginal capacity in economic development research, the active involvement of Aboriginal students in research projects is encouraged. Students in degree programs who choose to undertake thesis or major project work through APCFNC-sponsored research projects should be able to access data from the project. They should also be protected, insofar as possible, from delays, disruptions or premature termination of projects that would interfere with their ability to complete their degree programs. An agreement spelling out the rights and obligations of students in specific research projects may be necessary.

