

Research with Indigenous Peoples and Communities

with a focus on L'nu/Mi'kmaq

Overview

In the spirit of ensuring a respectful reciprocal relationship with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis (FNIM) communities, as well as a respectful and robust research agenda for faculty and students, Cape Breton University offers the following information to researchers and communities. This information reflects local, national, and international insight and experience to guide researchers and inform communities and participants about the best practices when conducting research in and with FNIM communities.

Tips and Information for researchers

- Indigenous research ethics, as with much community-based research today, emphasizes (and sometimes insists) that research questions come from the community itself, and that research projects reflect the will of the community and have an applied focus.
- For this reason, it is expected that researchers are able to indicate what outreach or relationships they have begun forming with a community prior to the research (being careful, of course, that the research does not begin prior to ethics approval at the institutional and local levels). Community engagement is essential before any research project begins.
- Community engagement may be informal, such as visits, meetings or emails, or it may be formal, as in a Research Agreement entered into with a community.
- Researchers are expected to be familiar with Chapter 9 “Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis People of Canada” from the TCPS 2.
- It is the researcher’s responsibility to understand what jurisdictions their research may fall under and to seek appropriate ethical clearance.
- The CBU REB cannot grant ethics approval without prior approval from the appropriate community or regional approval body.
- CBU REB does not issue letters stating that Mi’kmaq Ethics Watch approval (or any other local protocol) is not needed. It is the researcher’s responsibility to ensure all approvals required have been gathered.

Resources

Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

- Chapter 9 “[Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis People of Canada](#)” from the TCPS 2

Mi’kmaq Ethics Watch: the primary body for research ethics approval in Mi’kma’ki

- [MEW website](#)
- Contact mew@unsm.org for further information

Unama’ki (Cape Breton) Resources

- [Unama’ki College \(@CBU\)](#)
- [Mi’kmaq Resource Centre \(@CBU\)](#)
- [Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources](#)
- Membertou: <http://www.membertou.ca/>
- Eskasoni: <http://www.eskasoni.ca/>
- Wagmatcook: <http://www.wagmatcook.ca/>
- Whycomomagh: <https://wekogmagproud.com/>
- Potlotek: <http://potlotek.ca/>

Regional Resources

- [Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq](#)
- [Mi’kmawey Debert Cultural Centre](#)
- [List of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaw Bands](#)

OCAP Principles

[First Nations Information Governance Committee Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession](#)

Tri-Council Resources on Indigenous Research

- [Social Science and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#)
- [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\)](#)
- [Canadian Institute of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#)