

Research Ethics and Integrity Guidelines

These Research Ethics and Integrity Guidelines (“Guidelines) supplement Grand Challenges Canada’s Research Ethics and Integrity Policy, which applies to any innovator who receives funding from Grand Challenges Canada to complete research through their innovation project.

GUIDELINES

The resources shared below are intended to provide guidance; we would strongly recommend that innovators confirm with their institution and/or community those resources that would be most appropriate and relevant to the proposed research initiative. I

Research Involving People

For non-Canadian innovators, the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and the [Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences](#) (CIOMS) can provide guidance regarding minimum codes and standards for research involving humans. Innovators who are based in Canada or partnered with Canadian federal agencies and/or universities will also, *at a minimum*, need to observe the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS 2, 2018\)](#).

Research Involving Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Communities or Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Whenever possible and where requested, proposed research with Indigenous peoples and/or Indigenous communities should consider establishing a research agreement or memorandum of understanding that outlines roles and responsibilities alongside governance of research, knowledges and data, as well as accountabilities held by the signatories. In particular, all proposed research with Indigenous peoples and/or Indigenous communities will need to recognize, respect and support Indigenous- and community-led research and data oversight requirements, and Indigenous research ethics protocols and committees. For example, in general, the principles of ownership, control, access and possession can provide a basis for governance and management of Indigenous Knowledges and data through a set of self-determined, place-based principles that explicitly support Indigenous data sovereignty.

Article 31 of the [United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) explains that “Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games, and visual and performing arts.” Any research that innovators complete related to these areas or any other cultural heritage areas, as defined by the Indigenous communities that the research is with or about, should follow local (community) protocols and processes, as defined and led by the community. Also see Grand Challenges Canada’s [Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy](#).

In keeping with our commitment to reconciliation and our efforts to respect and recognize Indigenous peoples’ human rights, any research in innovation projects funded by the [Indigenous](#)



Innovation Initiative that involves Indigenous people and/or communities will be reviewed in consultation with the Indigenous Innovation Initiative staff and a member of the Indigenous Innovation Council.

Upon completion of a project, innovators will need to consider how to provide thanks and share evaluations with any Indigenous partners and participants who contributed to the process.

Research Involving Animals

For non-Canadian innovators, in the absence of a national standard, research should, *at a minimum*, observe the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which can provide guidance regarding minimum standards and principles related to any research involving animals.

Research at Canadian institutions, including Canadian researchers conducting research outside of Canada, will *at a minimum* need to implement the policies and guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and should observe, where possible the Three Rs: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement. Multi-institutional animal research involving Canadian researchers will need to observe the CCAC guidelines for Animal-Based Projects Involving Two or More Institutions.

The Indigenous-specific resources provided above should be considered when planning and implementing all steps of the research process; where resources do not exist, this does not mean that protocols are not in place. In all instances, Indigenous communities should be engaged to confirm how to plan and implement all steps of research involving animals.

Research Subject to Additional Regulatory Requirements

Research conducted by Canadian innovators needs to be in compliance with the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act, along with the relevant guidelines designated by the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2, 2018). Research conducted by non-Canadian innovators must be in compliance with recognized international standards for research identified as posing biosafety and/or biosecurity risks, in addition to institutional and/or jurisdictional laws, and regulations and/or guidelines applicable at the site where the research is being conducted.

RESOURCES

Below are links to the various documents, guidelines and policies that we have referenced throughout this document.

Research involving human participants

- The Declaration of Helsinki
- Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)
- Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2, 2018).
- United States Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule)
- International Compilation of Human Research Standards, 2020 Edition
- Trust Project: Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings, 2018
- General Data Protection Regulation, European Union, 2018

- [Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action – Second Edition.](#)

Research involving Indigenous peoples and communities

- [United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada. Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS2, 2018\)](#)
- [Indigenous Knowledges and Data Governance Protocol](#)

The following additional resources are broken down by Indigenous communities; many are relevant for use across various communities.

Resources for research across First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities:

- [Framework for Research Engagement with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Peoples](#)
- [Utility, Self-Voicing, Access and Inter-Relationality Research Framework \(for urban communities\)](#)
- [Guiding Ethical Principles \(for urban communities\)](#)
- [Ethical Research Engagement with Indigenous Youth: Seven Requirements](#)

Resources more specific to First Nation Peoples or communities:

- [First Nation Principles of OCAP®](#)
- [4 R's of First Nations Education](#)

Resources more specific to Inuit Peoples or communities:

- [Negotiating Research Relationships: A Guide for Communities](#)
- [Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities: A Guide for Researchers](#)

Resources more specific to Métis Peoples or communities:

- [Principles of Ethical Métis Research](#)

LAST UPDATED: March 29, 2022