



GLOBAL WATER FUTURES

SOLUTIONS TO WATER THREATS
IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CHANGE

Guiding Principles for Indigenous Community Water Research

Global Water Futures (GWF) is a pan-Canadian research partnership which aims to deliver risk management solutions — informed by leading-edge water science and supported by innovative decision-making tools — to manage water futures in Canada and other cold regions where global warming is changing landscapes, ecosystems, and the water environment. End-user needs are central to this mission; driving its strategy and shaping its science.

Indigenous peoples (Inuit, First Nations and Métis) are rights holders, important users and producers of science, and key partners in the GWF program. GWF aims to support and promote water research by and with Indigenous peoples, and to recognize the value of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems in building water security for current and future generations.

GWF is committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to providing education and research leadership within post-secondary institutions as called for by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. GWF is also committed to the following **principles** established with the guidance of key Indigenous organizations (including Métis Centre of the National Aboriginal History Organization, First Nations Information Governance Centre, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami); **practices** co-created with Indigenous peoples by the Canada Research Coordinating Committee and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; and, **engagement** with Indigenous partners and scholars:

1. Respectfully acknowledge Indigenous lands at research and engagement events;
2. Invite and support the participation of elders and knowledge keepers in events and appropriate ceremonial activities;
3. Affirm, co-learn, and respectfully share the important, holistic, and interdisciplinary contributions to human knowledge that are made by Indigenous knowledge systems including Indigenous ontologies, epistemologies, and methodologies;
4. Provide funding opportunities for research with and by Indigenous communities in all calls for research proposals and through a uniquely co-developed process to encourage Indigenous co-led research projects;
5. Promote inclusion and engagement in, and leadership of, research projects by a diversity of Indigenous identities;
6. Incorporate community-driven questions in research projects;
7. Support the co-creation of research outputs by and for Indigenous people and communities;
8. Facilitate fair and equitable research project review by including Indigenous researchers and/or experts in Indigenous research on adjudication committees reviewing Indigenous research proposals;

9. Provide liaison supports for Indigenous partners, potential partners, and others interested, to connect to research and researchers;
10. Identify potential collaborations and research applications for the benefit of Indigenous people, communities, and decision-makers;
11. Recognize, respect, and operationalize the diverse protocols and processes appropriate to conducting research in Indigenous communities with Indigenous peoples;
12. Foster equal collaboration in community engagement and full participation of communities in outreach and knowledge sharing events;
13. Adhere to the First Nations Principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) in data collection, management and sharing;
14. Support Indigenous talent and research careers through training and capacity building, leadership roles, removing systemic barriers to success, and promoting science and engineering as options for Indigenous youth; and
15. Mobilize knowledge through the communication of research results and potential uses with community members, community leaders, and policymakers.

These principles have, and will continue to, inform the strategies, approaches, and procedures of the GWF program and its funded research projects, which recognize the importance of decolonization and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples to water security for all in a rapidly changing world.

Key Guidance Documents:

Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC). 2019. Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada 2019-2022. Ottawa: Government of Canada.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/research-coordinating-committee/priorities/indigenous-research/strategic-plan-2019-2022.html#1>

First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC). 2014. Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP): The Path to First Nations Information Governance. Ottawa: FNIG.
https://fnigc.ca/sites/default/files/docs/ocap_path_to_fn_information_governance_en_final.pdf

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). 2018 National Inuit Strategy on Research and Implementation Plan. Ottawa: ITK. <https://www.itk.ca/national-strategy-on-research/>

Metis Centre of the National Aboriginal History Organization. 2010. Principles of Ethical Métis Research.
https://achh.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Guide_Ethics_NAHOMetisCentre.pdf

Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). 2019. Indigenous Research Statement of Principles. 2019. Ottawa: Government of Canada.
https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/statements-enonces/indigenous_research-recherche_autochtone-eng.aspx

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRCC). 2015. Calls to Action. Winnipeg: TRCC.
http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

UN General Assembly. 2007. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
<https://undocs.org/A/RES/61/295>