

IRLET

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT TOOL

IRLET was developed based on the *Tri-Council Policy Statement Ch. 9: Research Involving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada* and measures the degree to which research fulfills patient-oriented research criteria for research with Indigenous peoples/communities. The original role of IRLET was to help grant committees evaluate health research occurring with Indigenous peoples, but it can also be a helpful guide for researchers who are involved with Indigenous research to ensure their projects are planned and executed in an appropriate and meaningful way.

IRLET considers the following four categories:

**Partnership with
Indigenous
peoples**

**Knowledge
translation**

**Strengths-based
approach**

**Indigenous
knowledges and
ways of knowing**

Projects are scored on a scale of 1-5. A one represents no meaningful Indigenous engagement or leadership, lack of inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and knowledges, and a deficit focus, whereas a five would represent a project that is trauma-informed and strengths-based, grounded in Indigenous knowledges, guided by Indigenous peoples, and mutually beneficial. Categories are assessed individually and scores are then summed to get a total project score.

Free online IRLET training is available through First Nations University of Canada.