

FIRST NATIONS PRINCIPLES OF

OCAP®

Established in 1998 during a meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the First Nations and Inuit Regional Longitudinal Health Survey. The NSC transitioned into the First Nations Information Governance Centre in 2010. The purpose of OCAP® is to aid First Nations in data governance and asserting their sovereignty. **The four key concepts of OCAP® are:**

Ownership

A community owns their information collectively; the same way individuals own their personal information. Ownership is rooted in the relationship of First Nations to their knowledge, data, and information.

Control

First Nations have a right to control all aspects of research and information processes that impact them, including being involved in all stages of research projects, controlling resources and review, planning, data governance, etc.

Access

First Nations have a right to access information and data about themselves and to manage and make decisions regarding their information.

Possession

First Nations have a right to physically control their data. Possession is the mechanism by which ownership can be asserted and protected.

OCAP® Principles create a framework for First Nations to own and govern their information and help to ensure that research is beneficial to communities, fulfills community priorities, and that resulting knowledge makes its way back to the community. The FNIGC offers an online course, *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*, that teaches about the foundations and applications of OCAP®

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<https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>



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