

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

TCPS 2 CH. 9

The Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) is the official human research ethics policy of Canada's three research agencies, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR. TCPS aims to assist researchers, research ethics boards, participants, and the public in ensuring that research involving humans is done in a way that respects and protects participants.

The guidelines in TCPS are based on three core principles:

Respect for Persons

Concern for Welfare

Justice

The most recent iteration, TCPS2, was released in 2022. Ch. 9 of TCPS 2 specifically addresses research with First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

Ch. 9 states that researchers/research should:

- Engage with communities when research has potential to impact them/their lands or refers to Indigenous identity, culture, or knowledge
- Seek approval from community leaders before recruiting participants
- Recognize diverse viewpoints and interests within communities, and ensure those who have historically been excluded from research have the opportunity to participate
- Become informed about, and respect, customs and codes of ethics in communities affected by their research
- Put Research Agreements in place with partner communities which outline roles/responsibilities, intellectual property rights, rights related to collection of biological material, etc.
- Serve community interests and priorities, and support capacity building where possible
- Provide community representatives the opportunity to participate in all aspects of research, including review of findings before they are finalized/published

NSERC - National Science & Engineering Council of Canada
SSHRC - Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada
CIHR - Canadian Institutes of Health Research