



PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIONS IN TERRITORY OF THE LABRADOR METIS NATION

THE LABRADOR METIS NATION RECOGNIZES THE COMPLEXITY OF THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMITMENT EACH INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHER HAS TO VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EACH STAKEHOLDER HAS THEIR OWN SET OF PROTOCOLS AND THE RESEARCHER MAY OCCASIONALLY FIND HIM OR HERSELF FACED WITH A CONFLICT OF ETHICS. THE RESEARCHER SHOULD NOT HAVE TO COMPROMISE HIS OR HER OWN PERSONAL ETHICS, BUT IF THOSE ETHICS CONFLICT WITH THE LMN PROTOCOLS PRESENTED BELOW, THE RESEARCHER MAY NEED TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE INTENDED FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING LMN TERRITORY OR MEMBERS **ONLY**. IF A RESEARCHER INTENDS TO CONSULT WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER LABRADOR ABORIGINAL GROUPS, THEN HE OR SHE SHOULD CONTACT NUNATSIAVUT GOVERNMENT OR INNU NATION REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS.

Principles

1. All research involving LMN members shall follow the *Tri-Council Policy Statement*; specifically *Section 6 – Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples*.
2. The Labrador Metis are the guardians and interpreters of their traditional knowledge and culture. This knowledge is inextricably linked to their lands and territories and all research into Labrador Metis knowledge, culture, or traditions belongs to the community and shall be returned to the community.
3. The Labrador Metis have the right and obligation to protect their cultural and intellectual properties. Knowledge is collectively owned, used, and taught by the LMN and its members. Written permission must be obtained from the LMN before any traditional knowledge of the community is used.
4. Concerns of the LMN and individual participants regarding anonymity, privacy, and confidentiality shall be respected and addressed before research commences. The LMN and individual participants have the right to know what will become of the information they have volunteered, including possible use and application.
5. The purpose of research and any expected outcomes shall be communicated to the LMN and individual participants in a clear and concise manner.

6. Preference will be given to hire researchers, research assistants, and research collaborators who are members of the LMN.
7. The LMN's jurisdiction over the conduct of research will be understood and respected.
8. A summary of the final report will be made available to the LMN and any other members who contributed to the research. This summary should be provided in an accessible manner.

Protocols

1. The Labrador Metis Nation should be contacted at the design phase of the research project. At that time, an *Application to Conduct Research* should be submitted to the LMN. The application is available on the LMN website.
2. A researcher proposing to carry out research that touches on traditional knowledge of the LMN community should consult the LMN to obtain consent before approaching community members individually. Once the LMN has given consent, the researcher will still need the free and informed consent of the individual participants. Participants shall also be informed of their right to withdraw from the research at any point without consequence. Where there are no identifiable persons, then the LMN will be acknowledged for areas where information or knowledge is cited.
3. Research tools and techniques which are secret or covert will not be accepted. All work shall be open, direct, and transparent at all times, and participants will be fully informed of their participation in a research study.
4. Respect will be shown by all partners to the unique culture and traditions, as well as the values of the LMN and its members.
5. The researcher will not exploit participants, resources, or the information gathered, for personal gain or aggrandisement at the expense of the LMN or individual participants.
6. The LMN and individual participants shall be given the opportunity to contribute to the interpretation of data and review the conclusions drawn from the research to ensure accuracy and social/cultural sensitivity of interpretation. This shall be done prior to publication of findings.
7. The LMN ethics committee (consisting of board members, community members, and employees) reserves the right to review and/or reject proposals for research on LMN territories and research involving and/or affecting LMN members. The LMN also reserves the right to contact researchers for additional information. All proposals must receive LMN approval before research commences.