Indigenous Research and SSHRC Engagement

Memorial University, September 17, 2018

Tim Wilson, Executive Director, Research Grants and Partnerships

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

SSHRC is committed to supporting and promoting social sciences and humanities research by and with Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

Indigenous research and SSHRC engagement

- National Dialogue on Research and Aboriginal Peoples (2002-03)

- Aboriginal Research Pilot Program (2003-2009)

- [Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](#) a revised [definition of Indigenous research](#). (May 2015)

SSHRC-funded project with Memorial University and the Nunatsiavut Government: *Tradition and Transition Among the Labrador Inuit*. This five-year venture, announced in October 2015, is aided by a $2.3 million Partnership Grant from SSHRC.

SSHRC Indigenous Advisory Circle

SSHRC values the guidance of the Circle to co-develop, support, validate and advance the following core areas:

- SSHRC's reconciliation efforts (TRC 65 in particular)
- SSHRC's Indigenous Research and Indigenous Talent programming measures and other program related initiatives.

Circle membership includes elders and knowledge-keepers drawn from the major Indigenous traditions in Canada as well as non-Indigenous researchers with in-depth experience working in partnership with Indigenous communities

Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research

- Relevant for Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers who conduct Indigenous research;

- Intended to supplement existing SSHRC materials and complement Chapter 9, TCPS2;

- Interpretive points to assist and to ensure coherence among merit review committees in applying SSHRC's evaluation criteria

- Key concepts for the review of Indigenous research; e.g., Indigenous or traditional knowledge; community; reciprocity; respect and relevance.

Current context

Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action no.65

- Establish a national research program to advance the understanding of *reconciliation*

Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) priority area no.4

- Create a *national dialogue to co-develop*, with Indigenous communities, an interdisciplinary, Indigenous research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples

Budget 2018

- $3.8 million to develop a *strategic research plan* that identifies new ways of doing research with Indigenous communities, including strategies to grow the capacity of Indigenous communities to conduct research and partner with the broader research community

Indigenous Research Updates

New Director, Indigenous Research, **Manon Tremblay**, since July 2018 (Manon.Tremblay@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

Tri-Agency Engagement Plan:

Stream A (tri-agency-led):

- Up to 10 events (roundtable discussions and workshops) being organized in collaboration with Indigenous organizations across the country (July 2018 – January, 2019)
- Launch of an online engagement platform (Sep. 12, 2018)
- National Dialogue Event in Ottawa (March 2019)

Stream B (Indigenous and scholarly-led): Connection Grants (Special Call) competition will result in the production of position papers by awardees for sharing at the national dialogue event.

TRC65 and CRCC priority: Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity Budget 2018 implementation

April 2018 → Spring 2019

Budget 2018: Develop a strategic plan that identifies new ways of doing research with Indigenous communities, including strategies to grow the capacity of Indigenous communities to conduct research and partner with the broader research community.

CRCC commitment (Priority 4): Develop, in partnership with Indigenous communities, an interdisciplinary, Indigenous research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

Agency-led Engagement (O & M) $540,000

Leverage Ongoing Engagement with:
Indigenous Research Organizations
(e.g., AFN, ITK, MNC, NWAC, Pauktuutit, NCTR)
Post secondary Institutions
Indigenous Advisory Circle

→ **Regional Events**
roundtables, workshops
Online Engagement
Sept-Dec 2018

→ **National Dialogue**
(with CRCC)
March 2019

→ **Draft Strategic Plan**
Presented to CRCC
Spring 2019

Participants: Indigenous organizations
Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers & students
CRCC, CFI and Tri-agency representatives
Key stakeholders and rights-holders: government, business, community

Indigenous & Scholarly-led Engagement (G & S) $2.5 million

Special Targeted Call: Connection Grants
50 @ $50K
Indigenous Organizations and Research Community
June 2018 launch – September 2018 deadline

→ **CG Awards***
October 2018

→ **Interdisciplinary Events and Outreach Activities**
October 2018 - February 2019

*CG: Connection Grants

Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity
Renforcement des capacités en recherche autochtone

- **Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity** (SIRC) is a national online dialogue with Indigenous Communities and Organizations organized by the tri-agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR), until January 5, 2019.

- One of several engagements for the co-development of an Interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

- **All are welcome to participate** – email (Indigenous-Autochtone@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca for access to the Government of Canada's collaborative and networking platform GCcollab.

Special Call: Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation – Connection Grants

- $50,000 over six months (November 2018 – May 2019) with possibility of six month extension

- Deadline: September 6, 8:00pm (eastern).

- Support community gatherings, workshops, and other events and outreach activities to engage and exchange on ways of conducting Indigenous research

- Holistic, interdisciplinary, and open to social sciences and humanities; natural sciences and engineering; and health and wellness topics

- Position paper and National Dialogue event

Strategic Themes for Engagement

➢ Supporting Indigenous Talent and Research Careers

➢ Engaging Indigenous Knowledge

➢ Mobilizing Knowledge and Partnerships for Reconciliation

➢ Fostering Mutually Respectful Relationships

➢ additional relevant themes

Indigenous Not-For-Profit Organizations

Only eligible Canadian institutions can administer grant funds. Indigenous not-for-profit organizations should apply for institutional eligibility via one of the following two options:

1) Restricted Eligibility
- Can administer just this one grant
- Lighter administrative burden

2) Institutional Eligibility
- Can administer more than one grant over next five years
- Not open to governments nor for-profit corporations
- Audited financial statements, full-time staff, ethics policy, compliance statement

Ongoing: Improvements to Concepts and Approaches

1. Concepts of Indigenous knowledge systems in SSHRC's definition of Indigenous research and its Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research, and their use in adjudication.

2. Protocol for participation of Elders and land acknowledgements for SSHRC programs and outreach.

3. Parameters for the eligibility of community-based researchers and co-applicants from Indigenous not-for-profit organizations.

Continued…

4. Options for monitoring and enforcement of TCPS2, Chapter 9.

5. Analysis of cultural, gender, and generational (especially, Elders and youth) considerations for program design and application process.

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