Examples of Indigenous Research Review Bodies

FOCUSED ON THE CONTEXTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

August 2020
Office of the Vice-President (Research)
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While this document may only have one author, in truth it is an amalgamation of work and aid from numerous people and organizations. I would like to first and foremost thank the staff of Nunavut Arctic College for their request to develop this document, their enthusiasm and support when it was delivered, and their continued support and input as it evolved and developed further. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the communities and organizations whose information is represented here. The public information made available by these groups is the backbone of this document, and it could not exist without it.

I would like to extend thanks especially to the individuals within organizations and communities who were able to review this document for its accuracy and gave their permission for its dissemination. These included representatives from the Yukon Government, Nunavut Arctic College, and Mi’kmaw Ethics Watch.

Thanks as well to those who were available for brief discussions of these and other adjacent review processes, either as organizers or as researchers having gone through the process.

Lastly thank you to the staff of the Office of the Vice-President (Research), who have supported this and other work and allowed for the dissemination of this document. A special thank to Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research) Max Liboiron for overseeing the creation of this document and for significant input on its drafts.
INTRODUCTION

As part of the Memorial University-Nunavut Arctic College partnership, in the Fall of 2019 Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) requested that the Office of the Vice-President (Research) compile a summary guide of Indigenous Research review bodies to aid in the possible development of a research ethics board at NAC. This document covers select bodies in Indigenous Research review within the contexts of northern research and research in Newfoundland and Labrador.

This document is intended only to provide a overview of the key processes of several different processes for research review. The intent of this document is to be of use for communities and organizations looking to develop their own research review processes, as well as for researchers wishing to me aware of the steps of research review required for their work. It may also serve as an educational tool for persons interested in understanding some Indigenous focused research processes. This document is not exhaustive and does not look at all Indigenous communities that have research review processes. Many communities and governments have processes and rules for research that are either not publicly available or not formalized, and this document should in no way be considered exhaustive in terms of navigating research with Indigenous partners. Moreover, research processes are constantly shifting, and researchers in particular should ensure they are familiar with protocol applicable to their research.

This document builds off of work on ethical research with Indigenous Peoples, such as the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies’ Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North1, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research’s Guidelines for Health Research Involving Indigenous Peoples2, and Panel on Research Ethics’ TCPS 2 (2018) – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada3.

All of the processes here are unique, and there is no true standardization of Indigenous Research review processes in these contexts. In most cases, Indigenous groups design processes that suit their individual needs, and non-Indigenous lead review processes such as NRI and ARI work with Indigenous communities to design protocol unique to their contexts. As a result, while there is no full standardization and research with any group will require becoming educated on their processes, some principles such as community consultation and engagement, mutual benefit or research, and returning results to communities in accessible forums are prevalent.

METHODS

Several bodies were contacted via e-mail to ask for information on the operation and structure of their research permission and review bodies. These included: the Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee (NGRAC); the NunatuKavut Community Council Research Advisory Committee (NCC-RAC); Mi’kmaw Ethics Watch (MEW); Aurora Research Institute (ARI); Nunavut Research Institute (NRI); and Yukon Government.

The processes that were examined for this document grew from the initial request from Nunavut Arctic College. The original request asked for a focus on Inuit processes, which resulted in the

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examination of NGRAC and NCC, as well as organization with frequent contact and interactions with Inuit groups such as ARI, NRI, and Yukon Government. Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch was selected because of their role representing multiple Indigenous communities and groups, which was an area of interest for NAC.

Of the bodies contacted, MEW, and NRI were available for consultation, which prompted phone calls and e-mail correspondences. One researcher with frequent contact with the ARI was available for comment on the typical route a researcher might take in the research process, and a staff member at the Aurora College Research Advisory Committee was available to discuss parallel processes to ARI’s licensing system. A draft of this document was distributed to the bodies mentioned to review the information to ensure that it accurately reflects processes. Of these bodies, full fact checks were conducted by MEW, NRI, and Yukon Government.

In all cases, the vast majority of information in this document reflects publicly available information present on the relevant organization’s website. The document was also relayed to each community for fact checks to ensure that the information was properly interpreted, and all edits and corrections were incorporated.

INDIGENOUS REVIEW IN THE CONTEXT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee

The Nunatsiavut Government is the Inuit regional government that represents the Labrador Inuit peoples residing in five communities in Northern Labrador and is recognized by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee (NGRAC) oversees all research done in and with Nunatsiavut communities and on Nunatsiavut lands.

TIMELINES: This committee meets once a month and requires that research be submitted three months before the intended start date of the project. The committee is available to provide letters of support for researchers undertaking research with Nunatsiavut, and a period of six weeks is required to produce said letter. Researchers are contacted within sixty days of a submission in regards to the next steps of their proposal. NGRAC has an appointed Inuit Research Advisor (IRA) who is to be contacted by any applicants who wish to engage in research prior to a request submission to the NGRAC.

APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH: When submitting proposals, researchers must outline: the purpose, methods, and timing of the proposed research; what value the project can bring to

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Nunatsiavut; a communication strategy for research results; and any licenses or permits required for the project. All reports and applications must be submitted in plain language.

The research application includes questions regarding: time line (start date; end date; single year; multi-year); whether or not investigators are grad students; requirements for approval from a prior ethics body (i.e. a university research ethics board); what the current status of research is and any results presently found; what community the research takes place in; whether or not contact has taken place with community leaders/members in the relevant communities; what participants/subjects the research involves (i.e. humans, land, flora, fauna, etc.); and an acknowledgement of the rights of the Nunatsiavut Government and Inuit rights when conducting research on their land.

Additional applications for certain types of research may be required, and all non-beneficiaries conducting research on Labrador Inuit Lands are required to possess a Land Use Permit from the Lands Division. If there is any wildlife sampling required, researchers must also acquire a Permit to Access Labrador Inuit Lands for the Purpose of Harvesting. Lastly, all archeological research requires a submission of an Archeological Research Permit Application, which includes a Historic Resources Impact Assessment.

**DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES:** The Nunatsiavut Government maintains the *Nunatsiavut Government Annual Research Compendium*, which contains plain language summaries of all research conducted in the region.

**NunatuKavut Community Council Research Advisory Committee**

The NunatuKavut Community Council Research Advisory Committee (NCC-RAC) ensures that all research done with the Southern Inuit respects community values and benefits the community. NCC-RAC is administered by the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC), a registered not-for-profit organization that represents NunatuKavut’s people. The NCC-RAC oversees research conducted in the most prominent urban area for the Southern Inuit (Happy Valley–Goose Bay, Labrador) as well as communities other than this with Southern Inuit presence.

**TIMELINES:** The NCC-RAC does not meet in person and conducts business exclusively by phone or email. No specific time frames are required to be met by the RAC. Researchers can expect results of a proposal review within four weeks but are encouraged to submit up to six weeks in advance of their start dates. The Research Education, and Culture (REC) department of the NCC is responsible for the NCC-RAC, and their staff oversee its operation and coordination.

**APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH:** The NCC-RAC requires community engagement at proposal and results stages, and focuses on initial contact, consultation, and dissemination of results. The NCC-RAC does provide letters of support (no specified timeline), but emphasizes that letters of support, which are used as evidence of consultation for some institutional Research Ethics
Boards, do not constitute approval of research and data collection cannot begin until approval from the NCC-RAC is granted.

Before a project can begin, the NCC-RAC process must be followed closely and has two major steps. The first is a preliminary application, which involves correspondences with community leaders and officials to determine whether the research project may be appropriate and can be accepted by the RAC. Following this approval, a formal application can be submitted to the RAC for evaluation, after which a decision may be rendered. Any project that requires collaboration with a community is required to be supported by a researcher-community agreement. This can be signed by either the community/staff member most closely affiliated with the research or, in the case of community partnerships, by the Council President. After submission, the RAC may accept the proposal, accept with revisions, or reject the proposal.

Researchers applying for approval from the NCC-RAC need to provide: details about researchers and affiliations; funding sources; research ethics board approval (can be pending); anticipated timelines (start, collection, and dissemination); consent forms; info sheets/surveys/posters; research outline; sources of data; how the relevant community will be involved; conveniences/inconveniences for participants and community; process for recruitment and participant safety/anonymity; possible profits and destination of profits.

**Mi’kmaw Ethics Watch**

Mi’kmaw Ethics Watch (MEW) is an Indigenous-run ethics board housed by Unama’ki College, an associate college of Cape Breton University. MEW requires that all research relating to Mi’kmaw collective knowledge, culture, arts, spirituality, traditions, or that has the potential to impact Aboriginal or Treaty rights of the Mi’kmaw be reviewed by their ethics board. Not all Mi’kmaw groups have review conducted via MEW, and whether or not the community uses MEW should be ascertained before submitting applications.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:** MEW’s board consists of Mi’kmaw community representatives trusted and authorized to review ethics. MEW respects all levels of community authority, and communities decide who will represent and speak for their community during ethics processes and research partnerships. MEW also considers problems relating to purchase/publication of private materials and removal of artifacts in line with established copyright law. All researchers are encouraged to return copies of their research to the Mi’kmaw Resource Centre and Cape Breton University and, wherever possible, to ensure that research is brought back and accessible to the participants involved.

MEW meets quarterly to review projects. Applications are distributed to reviewers as they are received by MEW. Six reviewers make up the review board, most of which are Indigenous. This includes the two founders and four others, and reviewers are experts in Indigenous Research and/or knowledge. They are recruited on a volunteer basis and are not required to hold PhD’s or equivalent education. Non-Indigenous people can sit on the board with proper qualifications and backgrounds. If schedules are such that projects cannot be reviewed before quarterly deadlines or there is an unusually high volume of project applications MEW may utilize ad hoc reviewers.

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13 In cases of community collaboration, members or staff are engaged in the project, whereas in community partnerships they are co-investigators in the project.
14 For full list see NCC. (2014). *Application to conduct research and consultations in the territory of NunatuKavut. NunatuKavut Community Council.*
The review process is coordinated by one employee who manages the review board as well as other duties. MEW requires that researchers approach the board as a partner in negotiation, where the board reviews research as a representative for the community/-ies researchers will need to engage. MEW encourages researchers to be engaged with communities prior to the review process and be able to produce evidence of this engagement. Their review is based on their ideals of equal stakes in research, rather than framing research partners as ‘informants’, ‘participants’ or ‘subjects’. Researchers are expected to learn and respect the protocols and traditions of groups that they partner.

**TIMELINES:** MEW uses the following timeline for research submissions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission Deadline</th>
<th>MEW Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Early January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Late March</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Mid July *</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Early October</td>
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</table>

*Vacations and other reviewer obligations in the summer months may cause delays

This timeline is only applicable to new submissions; amendments and continuing review can be submitted at any point. Complete submissions received before deadlines are given priority.

**APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH:** All researchers must include in their applications: the usefulness of the study to the community; potential benefits/harms of the research; financial support for the research and the names of all investigators; a list of tasks; information requested of the Mi’kmaq people; how research will be participatory; publication plans and anticipated royalties or financial gain; and ensure that research is accessible across language barriers and have translators and/or translated materials in the language of participants. Community consent forms must be available in both Mi’kmaq and English, and all participants and community partners may decline/withdraw from research at any time. Researchers must brief participants on any technology they plan to use, research partners should be informed of each step and progress in the research, researchers should look to foster new skills and capabilities with the community, and scholars must invite Mi’kmaq participation during the interpretation and/or review of any research results such that they may be both accurate and sensitive of community needs and status.

There are four instances in which MEW does not conduct ethics review. These include: undergraduate research (not including honours projects) and classroom projects; research in preschool to grade 12 contexts; research for books and manuscripts (academic or general).

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16 This procedural information was received during a phone call with a MEW ethics coordinator.
17 See MEW. (n.d.). Mi'kmaq research principles and protocols conducting research with and/or among Mi'kmaq people. Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch.
18 Retrieved from https://www.cbu.ca/indigenous-affairs/unamaki-college/mikmaq-ethics-watch/
19 See MEW (2019b). Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch: Research exemptions. Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch.
unless it deals specifically with Mi’kmaw collective knowledge, culture, arts, spirituality, traditions, or has a potential impact of Aboriginal or treaty rights; secondary data and all research that does not engage with human or animal subjects. Any use of one of these four conditions must be explained and submitted to MEW such that an exemption may be provided.

OTHER BODIES ENGAGED WITH INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

Aurora Research Institute

The Aurora Research Institute, housed in Aurora College, is responsible for the licensing of research projects in accordance with the Scientists Act of the Northwest Territories. Licensing processes require consultation and feedback from relevant communities, otherwise no research license will be provided. These licenses are broken into three research areas: Archeologists’ Permits; Wildlife Research Permits; and Scientific Research Licenses20.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PROCESS: Applications for licenses are reviewed by Nunavut’s Science Advisor. They are not required to be an Indigenous person. They assess whether the research could do any physical, environmental, or social harm to the people and land of Nunavut. This has two parts: an internal review by the advisor to assess merit, feasibility, safety, and ethical integrity of the proposed research; and consultation with select community groups, Inuit organizations, government departments, and other groups that may be impacted by a project or who have specific regulatory authority over the proposed research activities. These consulted groups may recommend approval or rejection of research or require that specific terms and conditions be attached to NRI research licenses to protect against potential harms or to ensure appropriate community engagement in proposed research.

After review, researchers are given feedback and time to adjust proposals as needed. Nunavut’s Science Advisor is allowed up to one year to review a license application, and this period may be extended if consultation between the advisor, researcher, and other bodies is required.

The NRI license is not an absolute authority to carry out research in Nunavut. Depending on the nature and location of research field activities, certain researchers licensed by NRI must also obtain separate regulatory authorizations from Inuit land-holding agencies or from co-management agencies established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (for example, researchers must obtain special permission from a regional Inuit association to access Inuit owned lands for research purposes). Consultation and reporting requirements (and timelines) to obtain supplementary authorizations from Inuit and Co-management bodies may differ from NRI’s requirements.

20 Please note that the following outline pertains to the Scientific Research License (for research not with wildlife or archeological). The other two permits follow similar processes, but adjusted for their organizations. For Archeologists Permits see: PWNHC. (2014) Archeological Permit Application. Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre. and for Wildlife Permits see: Environment and Natural Resources. (n.d.) Apply to research, observe, and handle wildlife in NWT. Government of Northwest Territories.
TIMELINES: Applications are required three months prior to intended study start dates to allow for processing of requests, feedback from the community, adjustments to research design, and plans for appropriate community involvement.

APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH: Applications are required to be written in plain language, with an emphasis on keeping research outlines concise. More technical documents, as well as maps, figures, contracts, proof of community consultation, and other relevant documents to the research should be attached to the document but should not be within the documents to streamline review. Aurora Research Institute provides an introductory guide on writing plain language submissions in NWT\(^\text{21}\). A copy of research ethics approval from an accredited institution (i.e. Aurora College) is required for research involving humans. This can be pending at the time of submission (before approval) and is not necessary to begin the licensing process but is necessary to acquire final approval. There is a $200 administrative fee associated with Scientific Research License Applications, which is paid through the POLAR system used to administer online applications.

ARI encourages plans for possible harm mitigation, plans to involve community members, and research agreements made with communities to be included in applications even when human subjects are not involved in the research project since harms can be brought onto the community from all forms of research (i.e. environmental research indicating possible dangers to community or problems with food sources). These plans are not required at the application stage but can enhance applications and better chances at licensing and shorten timelines. In some cases these plans may be required as a criteria enforced by communities.

Upon completion of the project/ expiration of the license, a 200-word plain language summary of the research project must be submitted, which is then kept in the Compendium of Research in the NWT. Copies of all publications and reports produced from the project must also be submitted and are kept in a permanent and publicly accessible collection by ARI. ARI recommends that researchers update communities via formal and/or informal visits after the research project, though this can also be negotiated on a community-researcher level.

Processes for pursuing a permit or license for wildlife or archeological research processes may differ depending on the project. For a full list of all licenses used and required for research in the NWT see the ARI Guide for Researchers\(^\text{22}\).

REVIEW PROCESS: The Manager of Scientific Services reviews the documents to ensure clarity and completeness and, if necessary, the application is returned to the researcher for revisions. Applications are then reviewed and distributed, within one week, to community organizations that represent groups that the research is found to have a possible effect on\(^\text{23}\).

Once this distribution is complete, researchers are provided with a list of communities to whom the proposal has been distributed to so that they may reach out to communities, consult on the project, and engage in dialogue. It should be noted that many community organizations meet periodically, and so researchers should prepare for this process to take as long as 90 days. Researchers are also responsible at this time for pursuing any additional permits needed for their research as well as research agreements with organizations that may require consultation for the project. It is recommended (a correspondent stated that it is expected) that researchers have prior contact with communities involved in research to streamline this process.

\(^{21}\) ARI. (2019b). Plain Language. *Aurora Research Institute.*


\(^{23}\) This is an average time frame.
Following submission of community feedback, ARI requires that researchers provide proof of having addressed issues and recommendations made before the process continues.

**Nunavut Research Institute**

The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) is responsible for issuing scientific research licenses in the Territory of Nunavut, under the authority of Nunavut’s Scientists Act - a legislation that was adapted from the Northwest Territories’ Scientists Act when the NWT was divided to allow for the creation of Nunavut in 1999. Given the common legislative basis for their respective licensing processes, the NRI’s research licensing requirements and administrative procedures are similar in many respects to those employed by the ARI. In both Territories, the primary objectives of licensing under the Scientists Act are twofold: 1) to ensure that scientific research activities do not result in harm or disruption to local communities and/or the natural environment; and 2) to retain information and knowledge generated by research activities conducted in the territories.

**TIMELINES:** Timelines are dependent on the requirements for engagement with Indigenous communities as well as the nature of the project.

**APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH:** Approximately 60% of all research conducted in Nunavut is licensed by the NRI, where wildlife, archeological and paleontological research are covered by other legislation and authorities\(^{24}\). NRI licenses allow researchers to conduct studies only within the confines of their proposal – if the objectives, methods, and scope of a licensed project changes, the research proponent must inform the NRI of the changes and apply for a license amendment.

Internal program evaluation, needs assessment, feasibility studies, policy review/analysis, employee satisfaction surveys, statistical censuses and surveys, and some other kinds of research do not require licensees at all. Full lists and restrictions on research can be found in the *Obtaining a Research License under Nunavut’s Scientists Act* document\(^{25}\) and the *Research Licensing Application*\(^{26}\).

All submissions for social sciences licenses require a 500-word non-technical project summary in both English and Inuktitut. Researchers must also provide documented proof that the research has been reviewed, or is being reviewed, by an institutional ethics review committee and, if there is no affiliated institution, an independent ethics review may be launched. If the review is in progress the researcher is responsible for reporting the review results to the NRI. All research must be in line with Tri-Agency policy, with special attention pertaining to *Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2) - Chapter 9: Research involving the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada*\(^{27}\).

Packages must also include participant consent forms, in both English and Inuktitut, that contain: the contact information of researchers; a description of tasks, time commitments, risks, possible financial compensation, participant rights, descriptions of how data will be collected and privacy/confidentiality maintained; and conditions for release of recorded information. Further,

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any research being conducted within schools in Nunavut must first be granted special approval from the Nunavut Department of Education\(^28\).

These same procedures, with variance, are required for other types of research as well.

**CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS:** All licenses are valid for a single calendar year, and multi-year licensing can be sought out if needed for the project. If a multi-year license is in use then holders must submit a yearly review detailing any significant changes in goals, directions, or practices, as well as a summary report detailing the activities during the current year. For a multi-year license to be continued the Manager of Research Liaison must be notified of field dates for the calendar year at least 30 days preceding the commencement of the research. A list of all research personnel involved must also be provided to the Manager of Research Liaison.

Annual Summary Reports must be submitted to the Manager of Research Liaison one year after the license has been issued, with a request for renewal, or with the completion of the project in under one year. This should be 500-1000 words, non-technical, in English and Inuktitut, and should include: a description of research activities; descriptions of datasets recovered; and a summary of any findings. All possible publications or reports generated from these projects must be reviewed prior to publication or release. Researchers must also share results with agencies and community members of relevant regions of Nunavut, typically where the research was conducted, prior to publication. This requires a communication plan which must detail the target audience and how communication is to be facilitated. This may include town hall presentations, radio interviews, posters and factsheets, newsletters, etc. NRI can provide advice and guidance as to how to communicate effectively with communities depending on target audiences.

**Yukon Research Licensing System**

The Yukon Government Cultural Services Branch, in collaboration with other branches, is responsible for administering Scientists and Explorers Act Licenses, which is required for anyone entering Yukon to carry out research. This includes, and has unique processes for, doing research with the Yukon First Nations and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Administration of research is conducted through a number of different licensing and permit categories. These include: Health Research Licenses; Yukon Archeological Sites Regulations Permit; Land Use Permit; Yukon Territorial Park Use Permit; Yukon Wildlife Act Permits; as well as federally required licenses and permits. All research in the Yukon must go through a license and permit application processes. The full range and descriptions of these licenses and the processes associated with them are available in the *Guidebook on Scientific Research in the Yukon*\(^29\). All licenses/permits expire on December 31\(^{st}\) of the year they were issued. There are no multi-year licenses, however if the project takes more than the single licensing year an extension may be applied for by submitting an additional application in the same manner as the first\(^30\).


\(^30\) This is true of the Science and Explorers Licence, however procedures may differ across various licenses.
TIMELINES: All applications for permits and licenses should be submitted at least three months prior to the start of fieldwork except for long-term use studies that require a Land Reserve, which should be submitted one year prior to the start date for site preparation.

APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH: Applications require: a project description including a viable title; a non-technical executive summary; a statement of purpose, objectives, and basic research plan outline; areas where research will be conducted (using maps if appropriate); schedule; and summaries of the work’s relation to other ongoing or previous work and its scientific significance; a description of the research team including identification of a PI who will hold the permit/ license; CVs of relevant investigators including previous Yukon permits and funding details; travel plans including details of accommodation, transportation, and supplies so that impact on Yukon communities can be predicted; project impact, including how the proposed project may impact residents, citizens, communities, trappers or outfitters in relevant areas; and a community/First Nations consultation plan, detailing any and all consultations taken up with First Nations governments and communities relating to the project and the applicable protocol, agreements, or approvals that may have arisen from these consultations. All applications are shared with relevant branches of government and sent out to implicated First Nations communities to comment on31. All research that uses Yukon residents as subjects or informants requires written confirmation that the community/group/government has been consulted and consented to the project. The Yukon government advises that intellectual property rights and Traditional Knowledge rights holding remain in the hands of First Nations groups and governments, and so researchers are encouraged to consult with those involved in the research to reach agreements on intent and use of the data. As many First Nations communities are in the process of developing Traditional Knowledge Protocols, which may dictate how Traditional Knowledge32 is shared, researchers are advised to consult with communities regarding these protocols where they exist and discuss the terms of agreement where they do not. In order to discern what First Nations communities must be consulted on the project there are various maps available through Yukon First Nations Council, Yukon Government, and online33. It is recommended that two to three months be set aside for this consultation process, as various circumstances may delay processes and many groups that must be consulted may not meet during a particular timeframe. For all project that are considered likely to have a large impact on the community, the local elected council must be informed and this engagement should be noted on the license application.

For health research, all applications are forwarded on to the Department of Health and Social Services. The department reviews all research involving: human subjects with a health/ social services theme; human tissue or bodily fluids; and Traditional Knowledge relating to nutrition, healing, or adaptation to changing or adverse conditions including climate change. Research using exclusively published literature, publicly accessible resources, or gray literature34 are exempt from this review process. The Health Research Review Committee requires documentation in addition to that required by the Heritage Resources Unit including: letters of approval of the research project in the case of research with specific communities, organizations, or identifiable sub-populations; a statement of how the research will benefit those included in it

31 See Guidebook on Scientific Research in the Yukon for full list of requirements.
32 To begin to learn more about Traditional Knowledge and its relationship to research, see AFN. (2011). ATK & Intellectual Property Right. Assembly of First Nations.
34 For a definition of gray literature see SFU Library. (2020). Gray Literature: What it is & How to Find it. Simon Fraser University.
as a whole; a statement of possible harm that may be incurred on those included; a statement of
deliverables that the research will produce for those included, relevant communities, or the
territory as a whole; a completed ethical review application when required from the home
institution; and a plan for facilitating consent where research involves individuals and a copy of
consent forms and other relevant documents. If data of First Nations peoples and non-First
Nations people are to be presented separately a letter from the Council of Yukon First Nations
approving of the methods is required

Differing and more extensive regulations may apply for researchers coming from outside of
Canada. Instances where additional documentation and applications are required, such as in the
case of federal parks and protected zones, land claims agreement territories, and archeological
digs, and research that intersects multiple levels of government can be found in the Guidebook
on Scientific Research in the Yukon, as well as additional relevant contacts for inquiries and
cooperation.

**LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS:** Researchers are required to submit two reports during the research
process. One is an interim report, summarizing work completed and continuing timelines, which
is optional but encouraged. The other is a final report, required within one year of the competition
of the project, highlighting the findings and significance of the project. This report is mandatory.

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