



Creating a Human Research Ethics Protocol in RAS – A Companion Guide: Indigenous Peoples Tab

The purpose of this Guide is to clarify questions that appear in the Research Administration System ethics protocol form under the Indigenous Peoples tab and to provide additional tips in completing your protocol. Not all questions in RAS are included in the Guide as not all questions require further clarification. Refer to this Guide as you craft your responses.

The text in **black** is the question as worded in the RAS system. The text in **green** clarifies what the Research Ethics Board (REB) is looking for.

NOTE: As you move through the tabs, you will see a number of “Yes” or “No” questions. Your responses may open additional tabs or text boxes which require your attention. If you change your answer to the “Yes” or “No” questions, these additional tabs or text boxes may disappear. Any responses you entered will not be saved.

TIP: Read all the questions before completing the application. Only respond to the question being asked in each text box. This prevents duplication of information and ensures consistent responses throughout the protocol.

As the system’s text boxes do not allow for formatting, we recommend using spacing and capital letters to create headings.

Indigenous Peoples

Summary	Research Personnel	Participants	Consent Process	Data	Risks/Benefits	Dissemination/Withdrawing	Indigenous Peoples	Attachments
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- As per Article 9.1 of the TCPS 2, please provide a plan on how you have and will engage the relevant community in your research plans (e.g., chief and council, band councils, tribe elders, local Metis associations, committees and organizations representing urban Indigenous people).
 - TCPS 2 describes community as a group of people with a shared identity or interest that has the capacity to act or express itself as a collective. A community may include members from multiple cultural groups. A community may be territorial, organizational, or a community of interest. An individual may belong to multiple communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous (e.g., as a member of a local Métis community, a graduate students' society, and a coalition in support of Indigenous rights). An individual may acknowledge being of First Nations, Inuit or Métis descent but not identify with any particular community. How individuals define which of their community relationships are most relevant will likely depend on the nature of the study being proposed.
 - Community engagement is defined by the TCPS 2 as a process that establishes an interaction between a researcher (or a research team) and the Indigenous community relevant to the study. It signifies the intent of forming a collaborative

- relationship between researchers and communities, although the degree of collaboration may vary depending on the community context and the nature of the study. The engagement may take many forms including review and approval from formal leadership to conduct research in the community, joint planning with a responsible agency, commitment to a partnership formalized in a research agreement, or dialogue with an advisory group expert in the customs governing the knowledge being sought. The engagement may range from information sharing to active participation and collaboration, to empowerment and shared leadership of the study. Communities may also choose not to engage actively in a study, but simply to acknowledge it and register no objection to it.
- Respectful relationships, collaboration, and engagement are central to undertaking research by, with, and for Indigenous Peoples and communities. Such engagement does not require REB review and should occur BEFORE a protocol is submitted.
 - Are you conducting research on lands under the jurisdiction of First Nations, Inuit or Metis authority?
 - If 'Yes', attach any approvals you have from the community to conduct this study. This can be a formal communication, such as a letter of support, or an informal communication, such as an email.
 - If you do not have the required approval yet, attach a blank document as a place holder. When you receive the document, submit an amendment.
 - TCPS2 makes exceptions to seeking the engagement of leaders of a community. These include: (1) where there are complex authority structures (Art. 9.5), (2) when engaging with community members who may not have a voice in formal leadership or whose circumstances make them vulnerable (Art. 9.6), and (3) when critically examining public institutions, governments or organizations that have authority over the community.
 - Is there a research agreement in place?
 - If 'Yes', attach the agreement.
 - If the agreement is not approved yet, attach a blank document as a place holder. When you receive the document, submit an amendment.
 - If 'No', a new question will appear. Indicate why you will not obtain an agreement with your participant population group.
 - The TCPS 2 encourages research agreements to ensure the terms and undertakings of both the researcher and community are set out before participants are recruited. Research agreements serve as a primary means of clarifying and confirming mutual expectations and, where appropriate, commitments between researchers and communities. At a minimum, the agreement should address the ethical protections that would apply to securing individual consent for a comparable project and should specify any commitments regarding collective community participation and decision making, sharing of benefits and review, and updating of the agreement.
 - An agreement may be relatively brief, and subject to clarification as the project unfolds.

- Will the participants' personal information be disclosed to community members without their consent?
 - If 'Yes', a new question will appear. Explain how information will be disclosed. Outline how participants will be made aware that their personal identifiable data will be shared with community partners. Outline the safeguards that will be put in place to protect the confidentiality of identifiable data.
 - If 'No', a new question will appear. Explain why information will not be disclosed. Explain what type of data (if any) community partners will have access to.
- As per Article 9.13 of the TCPS 2, please provide information on how the nature of the research is relevant to the community needs and practices, and how it might benefit the participating community.
 - Where the form of community engagement and the nature of the study make it possible, the study should be relevant to community needs and priorities. Outline how the study is expected to benefit the participating community (e.g., capacity-building, reciprocal learning, extending/expanding skill transfer, local hiring, recognition of contributors, sharing of results), as well as how you plan to extend the boundaries of knowledge.
 - Outline how communities may benefit from of study activities (e.g., receipt of research funds, release time for study personnel, overhead levies on shared studies, or commercialization of research discoveries).
- Please describe how the community representatives will be engaged in the interpretation of data and review of research findings, before finalization of any relevant publications or reports resulting from the data.
 - Researchers should provide communities access to study data that will allow them to address pressing issues through community-generated policies, programs, and services.
 - How will community representatives participate in the interpretation of the data and the review of study findings before the completion of the final report, and before finalizing all relevant publications resulting from the study?