



CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT SIX NATIONS

Revised June 2009

1. Preamble

Six Nations Council recognizes that all research conducted on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory is valuable learning experience and therefore should be respected for its merits. Furthermore, Six Nations Council recognizes that research should be encouraged on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory when it is based on mutual respect, understanding and trust.

Six Nations Council has the right and authority to authorize research being conducted on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Therefore, Six Nations Council has the right and authority to refuse a request to conduct research if it is not based on ethical principles of conducting research and preserving the integrity of our Indigenous Knowledge.

2. Policy Statement

The conducting of research on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory is an endeavour which may affect our people and culture and the way our people are perceived by the outside world. The consequences of conducting the research and the conclusions drawn from the research could have detrimental effects for people and our Indigenous Knowledge. It is these types of effects that this policy seeks to prevent by having a policy in place that establishes ethical rules for the conduct of such research. It is therefore the responsibility of the Six Nations Council to ensure that the people of Six Nations are protected from any detrimental effects of the research and that the research benefits our people. Therefore the Six Nations Council shall implement this policy to regulate and control research that is being conducted on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

3. Authority

Six Nations Council is vested with the authority to approve and monitor the conducting of research on the Six Nations territory and the protection of Indigenous Knowledge.

Six Nations Council delegates its authority to carry out this policy to an Ethics Committee of Council as per the *Ethics Committee Terms of Reference*. The Ethics protocol shall be established by the Ethics Committee according to this policy.

4. Principles

All research within the Six Nations territory or research concerning Six Nations' members shall be guided by the following principles.

- 4.1 No research may commence with out the approval of the Ethics Committee.
- 4.2 All applications for Ethics Committee approval shall be made in a form prescribed by the Ethics Committee.
- 4.3 General research methodologies and a high standard of professional ethics, as outlined by the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, with an emphasis on the “Good Practices” related to research with Aboriginal peoples, shall apply to all those conducting research under this policy.
- 4.4 The Ethics Committee shall endeavour to protect the integrity of our Indigenous Knowledge, our culture and protect the members of the Six Nations from harm or abuse.
- 4.5 Research design, where practical, shall endeavour to recruit and provide meaningful training of aboriginal researchers.
- 4.6 Research shall be respectful of community life, norms and customs.
- 4.7 The well-being of research subjects including maintaining anonymity and confidentiality shall be the paramount concern.
- 4.8 All participants shall be entitled to provide free, prior, and informed consent when participating in research projects.
- 4.9 No research data is to be sold, transferred or reused without the prior approval of the Ethics Committee.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 All proposals must be written and received by the Ethics Committee Secretary no later than 10 business days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Ethics Committee to be considered at that meeting.
- 5.2 A written proposal to conduct research shall be in the manner and form prescribed by the Ethics Committee. (See Appendix A) and shall include the following information:
 - (a) Goals/aims and purpose of the research;
 - (b) Research methodology;
 - (c) Possible benefits, potential risks/harm to individuals, the community, the land or the environment;
 - (d) Subjects informed consent and confidentiality;
 - (e) Funding sources;
 - (f) Set timeframes for conducting the research;
 - (g) Community resources that need to be accessed;
 - (h) Purpose and proposed use of the research;
 - (i) Intellectual property rights of the research;
 - (j) Any provisions for the protection of Indigenous Knowledge; and
- 5.3 Researchers shall provide the Committee with a statement on research dissemination.

5.4 Researchers shall provide an agreed upon mechanism for submitting completed research to the Committee for review prior to publication.

6. Proposal Review

6.1 All proposals shall be reviewed by the Ethics Committee as defined by the *Ethics Committee Terms of Reference*.

6.2 The Ethics Committee shall adhere to this policy when reviewing proposals.

6.3 The Ethics Committee shall review the written proposal and may seek advice and assistance in forming an opinion on the matter from those managers/departments which will be most affected or others who have knowledge of the area of Research.

6.4 The Ethics Committee may require the person(s) or organization(s) making the proposal to attend a hearing before the Ethics Committee and to answer questions for the Committee.

6.5 The Ethics Committee shall review the proposal and shall either:

- (a) Approve the proposal without questions and/or modification;
- (b) Approve the proposal subject to clarification or modification as noted;
- (c) Defer the proposal pending additional information or major revisions as noted by the committee;
- (d) Not approve the proposal; or
- (e) Recommend the proposal for a Full review.

6.6 Proposals under 6.5(b)6.5(c) may be resubmitted with the complete information, clarification or changes as noted. Proposals not approved: **MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED.**

6.7 If a proposal is marked for a full review then the Committee shall meet to discuss the proposal and shall invite the applicant and such other parties as the committee deems fit to make inquiries of the applicant on the proposal. The Committee shall render a decision on the proposal after the applicant answers such inquiries to the satisfaction of the Committee.

6.8 The Committee shall maintain an official copy of all proposals for the record and ensure that all other copies of proposals are destroyed after a project is approved or denied.

7. Anonymity and Confidentiality

7.1 No research project will be approved if anonymity and confidentiality are not guaranteed, unless:

- (a) the committee is convinced that the lack of anonymity and confidentiality presents no risk to the participants; and
- (b) the committee is satisfied that participants will be fully aware of the lack of anonymity and confidentiality.

8. Consent

8.1 Informed written consent must be obtained from any individual prior to their involvement in the research.

- 8.2 Where there are bona fide reasons for not obtaining written consent the applicant must explain those reasons to the Committee, and the procedure for obtaining free and informed consent shall be documented.
- 8.3 The Ethics Committee may approve a research project that does not include, or alters, the requirements for informed written consent provided that the research:
- (a) presents no more than a minimal risk to the subjects;
 - (b) could not practicably be carried out without the waiver or alteration;
 - (c) will, whenever possible and appropriate, provide the subjects with additional pertinent information after participation; and
 - (d) does not involve a therapeutic intervention.

9. Termination of Research

- 9.1 If during research the Ethics Committee is notified by a written complaint that the research is operating unethically or not following the approved protocols, the Ethics Committee shall hold a full review with the researcher(s).
- 9.2 If the Ethics Committee is satisfied that the complaint was warranted the Committee may terminate the research.

10. Public Announcements

- 10.1 The researcher shall acknowledge that at the discretion of the Ethics Committee, public announcements, via local newspapers and/or radio, may be made with regard to the conducting of research.
- 10.2 The person(s) or organization(s) submitting the proposal will be notified of a possible public announcement of their research prior to a decision being made on their proposal.
- 10.3 The person(s) or organization(s) submitting the proposal may be required to work in conjunction with the Ethics committee in drafting a public announcement.
- 10.4 In order to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy, research information shall be made public, in print and electronic media, to disclose and disseminate the status of approved research and what projects and researchers are not in compliance with Six Nations Ethics Protocols.
- 10.5 The Six Nations Ethics Committee shall release a report to the community on the research completed on Six Nations and all results of this research on an annual basis.

11. Reporting

- 11.1 Upon the completion, or termination, of a research project the researcher(s) shall submit a Research Update form (Appendix B) to the Committee.
- 11.2 Projects that last more than one year shall submit a Research Update form to the Committee on an annual basis.
- 11.3 Prior to publication the researcher(s) shall submit to the Committee the research for review in the method agreed to in the approved proposal.
- 11.4 If the Committee has concerns with the research the researcher(s) shall consider all reasonable concerns the Committee may have, and shall:

- (a) make appropriate changes to the research; or
- (b) accurately report the Committee's disagreement within the publication.

12. Storage and Ownership

- 12.1 The researcher(s) shall submit two final copies of the project to the Committee.
- 12.2 The Committee will arrange for the copies to be stored at the Six Nations Public Library and Six Nations Polytechnic.

13. Effective Date and Amendment of Previous Policy

- 13.1 This policy shall repeal and replace the "Policy for Conducting Research at Six Nations", as passed by B.C.R. No. 104/11/2004. This policy was approved by SNCR GC#213/06/16/2009 on June 16, 2009.
- 13.2 Six Nations Elected Council reserves the right to establish procedures, regulations and fees, from time to time, under the authority of this policy. This right may be delegated to agents, successors and employees of Six Nations Elected Council