



Mi'kmaq Confederacy Ethics Review Committee Terms of Reference

Mandate

The purpose of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy Ethics Review Committee is to review all Mi'kmaq Confederacy and outside research proposals which involve the two Prince Edward Island First Nations, on and off-Reserve, to determine ethical implications and decide whether additional actions need to be taken to assure the safety and rights of participants, as well as eliminate redundant or unnecessary research studies.

Membership

- The Ethics Review Committee shall be comprised of Mi'kmaq Confederacy staff. The number of membership shall not exceed five (5), with a quorum of three (3).
- The committee will include staff from both main offices, and must include a minimum of one staff member who is also a Mi'kmaq community member.

Roles of Committee Members

- Review proposals and related information made available and provide information/ expertise relating to the application.
- Ensure the proposal meets the required guidelines for research with Aboriginal individuals or groups, as outlined in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2)* Chapter 9: "Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada"
- In reviewing applications, members shall follow the guidelines as outlined in the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch, *Principles and Guidelines for Researchers conducting research with and/or among Mi'kmaq People*, as well as the guidelines outlined in First Nations Centre, *Considerations and Templates for Ethical Research Practices*
 - Excepting: We, as a committee, respectfully disagree with the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch in the following circumstance. As a non-exhaustive list, in research projects where there are questions about sensitive or personal issues; psychological or emotional risk; economic or social risk; risks to participants due to power imbalance and/or language and cultural sensitivities risk, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy Ethics Review committee perceives the minimum age without a parent or guardian signed consent, as eighteen (18) years old.
- Observing the basic rules of confidentiality when dealing with Ethics applications
- Attend and participate at meetings and provide feedback in a timely manner.
- If more than three (3) meetings are missed, the member may be removed from the committee

Decision-making

- Members must disclose any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest to the Chair of the committee prior to the submission review
- Members in conflict of interest will recuse themselves from participating in any submission discussion and deliberation
- Whenever possible, decisions will be made by consensus with all members given the opportunity to provide input.

Chair/Admin Support

- The Chair will be the key contact for the committee and provide administrative support including organizing the meetings and distribution of information.
- The Chair will be responsible to compile all decisions, comments and concerns raised at the Ethics Committee application review(s), and to compose all correspondence outlining the same to the research proposal applicant(s), both Band Councils, and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy Executive Director.
- The Chair will be responsible to provide an update to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy Executive Director and Program Directors at the Program Directors meetings, as required.