



## CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT SIX NATIONS

Approved By: GC#261/04/08/2014

Date for Review: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Effective Date: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Previous Version: GC#213/06/16/2009

### 1. Preamble

Six Nations Elected Council recognizes that all research conducted on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory is a valuable learning experience and therefore should be respected for its merits. Furthermore, Six Nations Elected 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 Elected Council has the right and authority to authorize research being conducted on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Therefore, Six Nations Elected 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. 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 Elected 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 Elected Council shall implement a policy and process to approve and monitor research that is being conducted on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

### 3. Authority

3.1 Six Nations Elected Council is vested with the authority to approve and monitor the conducting of research on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the protection of Indigenous Knowledge.

- 3.2 Six Nations Elected Council delegates its authority to carry out this policy to a Research Ethics Committee of Elected Council as per the *Terms of Reference for Research Ethics Committee*. The Research Ethics protocol shall be established by the Research Ethics Committee according to this policy.
- 3.3 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.

#### **4. Principles**

- 4.1 All research within the Six Nations territory or research concerning Six Nations' members shall be guided by the following principles:
  - (a) No research may commence without the approval of the Research Ethics Committee;
  - (b) All applications for Research Ethics Committee review shall be made in a form prescribed by the Research Ethics Committee;
  - (c) 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;
  - (d) The Research 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;
  - (e) Research design, where practical, shall endeavour to recruit and provide meaningful training of First Nation researchers;
  - (f) Research shall be respectful of community life, norms and customs;
  - (g) The well-being of research subjects including maintaining anonymity and confidentiality shall be the paramount concern;
  - (h) All participants shall be entitled to provide free, prior, and informed consent when participating in research projects;
  - (i) No research data is to be sold, transferred or reused without the prior approval of the Research Ethics Committee.

#### **5. Proposals**

- 5.1 All proposals must be written and received by the Research Ethics Committee Secretary no later than the first (1) day of the month to be considered at that month's regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.
- 5.2 A written proposal to conduct research shall be in the manner and form prescribed by the Research 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; and
- (j) Any provisions for the protection of Indigenous Knowledge.

5.3 Researchers shall provide the Research Ethics Committee with a statement on research dissemination.

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

## **6. Proposal Review**

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

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

6.3 The Research 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 Research Ethics Committee may require the person(s) or organization(s) making the proposal to attend a meeting and answer questions for the Research Ethics Committee.

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

- (a) Recommend Six Nations Elected Council approve of the proposal without questions and/or modification;
- (b) Defer the proposal pending additional information or major revisions as noted by the Research Ethics Committee;
- (c) Recommend the proposal for a Full review; or
- (d) Recommend Six Nations Elected Council not approve the proposal.

6.6 Proposals falling under 6.5(b) may be resubmitted with the complete information, clarification, or requested changes. Proposals that are not approved: **MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED.**

6.7 If a proposal is marked for a full review then the Research Ethics Committee shall meet to discuss the proposal and shall invite the applicant and such other parties as the Research Ethics Committee deems fit to make inquires of the applicant on the proposal. The Research Ethics Committee shall render a

decision on the proposal after the applicant answers such inquiries to the satisfaction of the Research Ethics Committee.

- 6.8 The Research Ethics 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 recommended for approval if anonymity and confidentiality are not guaranteed, unless:
- (a) The Research Ethics Committee is convinced that the lack of anonymity and confidentiality presents no risk to the participants; and
  - (b) The Research Ethics 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 Research Ethics Committee, and the procedure for obtaining free and informed consent shall be documented.
- 8.3 The Research 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 Research Ethics Committee is notified by a complaint that the research is operating unethically or not following the approved protocols, the Research Ethics Committee shall hold a full review with the researcher(s).
- 9.2 If the Research Ethics Committee is satisfied that the complaint was warranted the Research Ethics Committee may terminate the research.

## **10. Public Announcements**

- 10.1 The researcher shall acknowledge that at the discretion of the Research 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 Research 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 Research Ethics Protocols.
- 10.5 The Research Ethics Committee shall release a report to the community on the research completed on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and all results of this research at the Community Awareness events occurring annually in May.

## **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 Research Ethics Committee.
- 11.2 Projects that last more than one year shall submit a Research Update form to the Research Ethics Committee on an annual basis.
- 11.3 Prior to publication the researcher(s) shall submit the research for review to the Research Ethics Committee in the method agreed to in the approved proposal.
- 11.4 If the Research Ethics Committee has concerns with the research the researcher(s) shall consider all reasonable concerns the Research Ethics Committee may have, and shall:
  - (a) Make appropriate changes to the research; or
  - (b) Accurately report the Research Ethics Committee's disagreement within the publication.

## **12. Storage and Ownership**

- 12.1 The researcher(s) shall submit three (3) final copies of the project to the Research Ethics Committee.
- 12.2 The Research Ethics Committee will arrange for the copies to be stored at the Six Nations Public Library, the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic, and Six Nations Elected Council's administration building.

## **13. Effective Date and Amendment of Previous Policy**

- 13.1 This policy shall repeal and replace both the "Policy for Conducting Research at Six Nations", as passed by B.C.R. No. 104/11/2004 and also "Conducting Research at Six Nations", as passed by SNCR **GC#213/06/16/2009** on June 16, 2009.

13.2 This policy was approved by Six Nations Elected Council at the General Council meeting held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by resolution No. **GC#261/04/08/2014** to be effective on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.