

# STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CAPACITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

November 2022



Government  
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

# Setting the Context

- In 2017, the [Canada Research Coordinating Committee](#) (CRCC) reaffirmed the federal research funding agencies' commitment to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the creation of a national dialogue with Indigenous communities to co-develop an interdisciplinary Indigenous research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation.
- In 2018, SSHRC led, on behalf of the CRCC, co-development of a strategic plan to identify new ways of doing research by and with Indigenous communities. This included strategies to grow the capacity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities to lead their own research and partner with the broader research community.
- Extensive engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, which included awarding [Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation Connection Grants](#), and organizing regional events and a National Dialogue event, contributed to the co-development of an Indigenous Research Strategy to advance new models of support for Indigenous research and research training.



# Key Guiding Principles

**The co-development of the strategy was aligned with key guiding principles:**

**Self-determination:** fostering the right for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to set their own research priorities

**Decolonization of research:** respecting Indigenous ways of knowing and supporting community-led research

**Accountability:** strengthening accountability in respecting Indigenous ethics and protocols in research and identifying the benefits and impacts of research in Indigenous communities

**Equitable access:** facilitating and promoting equitable access and support for Indigenous students and researchers

# Strategic Plan launched

[Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada](#) (SIRC) was launched in 2020.

and sets out four directions to strengthen the capacity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to lead their own research and partner with the broader research community:

- building relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples;
- supporting research priorities of Indigenous Peoples;
- creating greater funding accessibility; and
- championing Indigenous leadership.

*Each strategic direction includes intended outcomes and anticipated mechanisms for implementation.*

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# Progress Since 2020

- In support of the plan's strategy objectives, SSHRC, in collaboration with the other federal granting agencies, CIHR and NSERC, as well as the CFI, has been leading the implementation of the Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity initiative.
- Persisting through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic—which has had a profound impact on both Indigenous communities and Canada's research community—Canada's research funding agencies have come together and established the structures needed to achieve real and lasting change.
- These efforts have been respectful and collaborative, in keeping with the spirit of the strategy itself. They are rooted in co-development with Indigenous partners, drawing on meaningful new relationships and research that addresses community priorities.

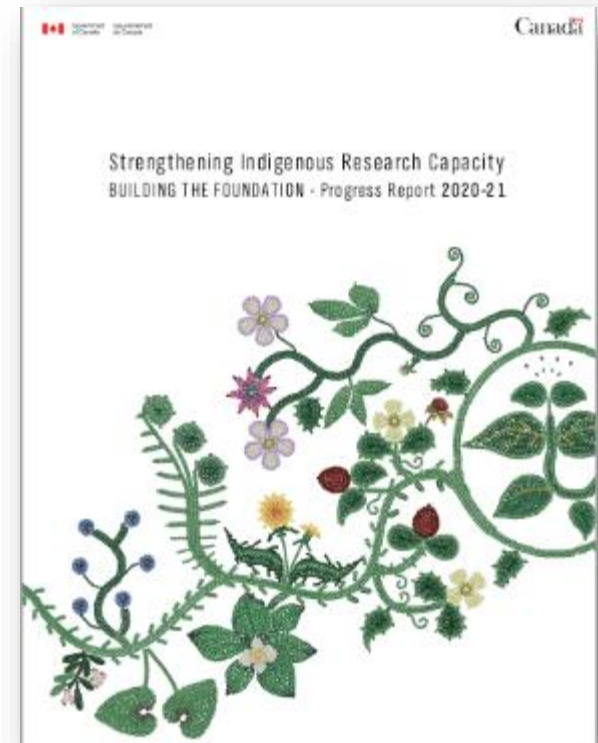
# *Building the Foundation – First Progress Report* (released February 2022)

“The Indigenous strategic plan is deeply rooted in community perspectives, and its implementation will be achieved by building a community of its own. By bringing together scholars, community leaders, elders and youth, each stage of the implementation will be guided by a group that reflects a diversity of expertise and Indigenous knowledge.

Building this community will be a gradual process, and that is why the past year has been spent building the frameworks and platforms for these groups to come together.”

*Nico Paul, former director, SSHRC,  
Indigenous Strategy*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/research-coordinating-committee/priorities/indigenous-research/2020-2021-progress-report.html>





# Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research (ILCR) Created in April 2022

- Shane H. Camastro, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
- Sherri Chisan, University nuxɛhot'jne thaaʔehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills
- Kori Czuy, Telus Spark Science Centre
- Alexander T. Duncan, The University of British Columbia
- Kimberly Fairman, Institute for Circumpolar Health Research
- Emily Grafton, University of Regina
- Dana (Danielle) Hickey, Native Women's Association of Canada
- Élisabeth Kaine, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
- Damien Lee, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Ry Moran, University of Victoria
- Diane Obed, Mount Saint Vincent University
- Amy Parent, The University of British Columbia
- Jesse Popp, University of Guelph
- Nicole Redvers, University of North Dakota
- Lee Wilson, University of Saskatchewan
- Ex-officio member Brenda Gunn, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Ex-officio member, Margo Greenwood, Scientific Director, Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health

## Mandate

- **Support implementation and monitoring of the SIRC strategic plan**
- **Provide advice and direction on supporting Indigenous research and reconciliation**

# Key Milestones - ILCR

- **April 2022:** Public announcement of the members
- **June 14, 2022:** First virtual meeting of the ILCR
- **October 26-28, 2022:** First in-person meeting of the ILCR



*Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research with tri-agency staff, October 2022, at University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills*



# Inter-agency Working Groups – Existing

## Indigenous Funding Opportunities Working Group

**Mandate:** to analyze and recommend improvements to existing tri-agency funding opportunities and to inform the development of future research programs to support reconciliation.

### ***Achievements at a Glance:***

- Environmental scan of current Indigenous research funding landscape
- Data-based gap analysis
- Recommendations to be presented to the Leadership Circle and the agencies

## Tri-agency working group focused on administrative barriers to Indigenous community-led research

**Mandate:** to enable Indigenous communities, scholars and organizations to conduct research, disseminate knowledge and administer federal research funding themselves.

### ***Achievements at a Glance:***

- Development of tools and models to make application processes more efficient
- Identification of mechanisms for indirect financial or operational support

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# Inter-agency Working Groups – Existing

## **Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research**

To build meaningful relationships, support Indigenous priorities and champion Indigenous leadership in research, it is essential to engage with, listen to—and follow—Indigenous Peoples. The 18-member external Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research, established in 2020, is an important mechanism for this.

The Reference Group was formed through an open, transparent, Indigenous-led call for expressions of interest. Given the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal research funding agencies ensured the application process was flexible, adaptable and accessible to all interested candidates, regardless of access to technology and broadband.

### *Achievements at a Glance:*

- Successful selection process and initial meetings and agreement on terms of reference
- Development of set of guiding principles for the appropriate review of Indigenous research
- Development of recommendations to improve the process for letters of support within the application process

# On the Horizon

- Two additional working groups will be established to help coordinate the work in key areas of the strategic plan including:
  - the Tri-Agency Working Group on Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research
  - the Tri-Agency Working Group on Indigenous Citizenship
- The ILCR will continue its work in providing advice on implementation.



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# Thank you!

For further questions regarding the implementation of the Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity Strategic Plan, please contact:

Karine Duhamel, Director, Indigenous Strategy, SSHRC  
[karine.duhamel@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:karine.duhamel@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

Ursula Gobel, Vice-President, Stakeholder Engagement and Advancement of Society, SSHRC  
[ursula.gobel@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:ursula.gobel@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)