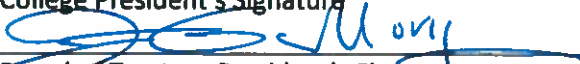

	Indigenous Research Policy	Policy # POL-403
Prepared By:	Preparer's Name/Title Sharon Kinley, Dean of Indigenous Education Greg Mahle	Date Prepared: 01/11/17
Approved By:	College President's Signature 	Date Approved: 05/05/2017
Effective Date: 05/05/2017	Board of Trustees President's Signature 	Date Approved: 05/05/2017

#### 403.1 POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees that NWIC supports Indigenous Research as the acceptable practice in the Honorable House of Learning (NWIC). Further, it is policy that all research conducted must follow the established acceptable practices of Indigenous Research, Theories and Methods, and Research Agenda.

#### 403.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Indigenous Research Policy is to inform and give guidance to faculty, staff, and other external researchers as to how research is conducted at NWIC when they apply with a research proposal, consistent with the above policy statement.

#### 403.3 SCOPE

Research at NWIC exists within the context and framework of the Coast Salish world view. This policy applies to all NWIC Faculty, staff, Sites (faculty and staff), external researchers, (and NWIC students where outlined as appropriate) who are applying to conduct research.

#### 403.4 BACKGROUND

Tribal college missions are uniquely different than mainstream public institutions. Tribal colleges were founded to save lives, revitalize cultures and languages through the lens of tribal education. At NWIC our mission is also uniquely positioned to increase the capacity of the tribes we serve. In 2012 NWIC was approved for the first Bachelor of Arts Four Year Degree Program. And as such, we increased our capacity to do research.

NWIC is situated in the heart of traditional Coast Salish territory. The Coast Salish people are the heirs to vast legacies of knowledge and it is our responsibility to ensure the protection of this knowledge. Historically research was conducted by the colonizer, shaped by the preconceived beliefs, values and biases that come with generations of oppression. This resulted in indigenous people across the globe facing misperceptions, misinterpretations and appropriation of our knowledge(s) at the hand of researchers whose worldview, theories and methods are shaped by the colonial model(s). Coast Salish people were not exempt from this distortion.

In 2014 the Land Grant Strategic Planning Committee and the Coast Salish Institute were tasked to develop and implement a framework, policy and research agenda that emerges from Coast Salish ideology and will protect the tribal communities we serve from further injustice. The return to cultural sovereignty; decolonization of current mainstream research practices; protect of Indigenous knowledge; understanding the sensitivity of cultural intellectual property of the tribes we serve is of primary concern to the Institution. Indigenous Theories give substances to sovereignty. Indigenous methods give meaning to indigenusness and both are foundational to Indigenous Research.

#### 403.5 RESPONSIBILITY

Faculty, staff, and any external researchers (and when appropriate students) who are applying to conduct research and while conducting research are responsible to follow the context and framework for Indigenous Research, the Research Agenda and to comply with the Research responsibilities as outlined below:

- **Cultural grounding**: Research topics should be to the benefit and enhancement of the tribal communities NWIC serves. It is very important for researchers to understand that there is cultural knowledge that can be shared, and there is knowledge that is private to tribal individuals and families. It is the responsibility of the researcher to know which information is public and which is private, and ensure the protection of both.
- **Ownership, control, access, possession**: Ownership means that either the tribal family or community owns the cultural knowledge so consent is required to use the knowledge. Control refers to the tribal family or communities' right to control aspects of research that is conducted involving the family or community. This especially includes the dissemination of cultural knowledge. Access refers to the ability for tribal individuals/families/communities to access research that has been conducted on them. Possession refers to who holds the actual possession of the research, data, and/or materials. It is a tool for which ownership can be asserted and knowledge protected.
- **Informed consent**: Researchers are required to inform participants of the purposes and intentions for their research in advance. Evidence of informed consent must be obtained after the participant(s) has been given the opportunity to examine the benefits and risk of the research. This allows them to decide what information they ultimately wish to share or not. It is important to be open and honest. Participants must be informed that they are free to withdraw from the research at any time without question or consequence. Informed consent must include all mediums for which the research will be utilized, noting that use of research materials will not be used outside of the scope of the research project and/or proposal without the permission of the research participants.
- **Giving Thanks**: It is central to the values of NWIC to give thanks to all the people who helped you conduct research. Give credit where credit is due.

#### **403.6 DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Context" is defined as Ontology (Body of Knowledge and Relationality), Epistemology (Our World Views), and Axiology (Our Values).**
- B. "Framework" is defined as Indigenous Theories and Indigenous Methods**

#### **403.7 PROCEDURES RELATING TO POLICY**

**Procedures relating to the adoption of this policy will include:**

- incorporation of the policy as part of the Indigenous Framework;**
- articulation of delegation of responsibility for implementation of the policy, to include Institutional Review Board, Land Grant Committee, and Indigenous Wellness Committee;**
- incorporation of an educational component; and**
- clarification on informed consent, including but not limited to electronic consent and writings and publications.**

#### **403.8 RELATED INFORMATION**

- A. Research Agenda, Academic Freedom, Ethics, Scholarship, Teaching & Assessment**
- B. Publication, TEK, Cultural objects, Culturally appropriate**
- C. Institutional Review Board Manual: Purpose and Policies**
- D. Framework for Indigenous Evaluation**

#### **403.9 REVIEW DATE**

**This policy will be reviewed every three years.**