

Policy

the [TCPS 2 Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#).

The First Nations University of Canada recognizes and acknowledges the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and respects Article 31:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

As such, researchers from the First Nations University of Canada will follow data sovereignty principles such as [OCAP®](#) (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession) principles or OCAS (Ownership, Control, Access, Stewardship) principles when collecting data or information from Indigenous communities, when possible. It is the duty of the researcher to seek out and obtain appropriate training in these protocols.

With this in mind, Article 28 of the [First Nations University of Canada URFA Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) includes the following statement:

Intellectual property (IP) means any result of conceptual or artistic activity that is created by an academic staff member and can be owned by a person. This includes all works that can be protected under copyright, patent, trademark, or other equivalent legislations.

In keeping with the principles of this policy, researchers at the First Nations University of Canada are encouraged to create a Research Agreement and/or a Data Sharing Agreement between the research team and involved Indigenous community partners. This agreement should explicitly state that the researcher(s) from the First Nations University of Canada will develop their projects in conjunction with Indigenous communities, organizations, or partners to ensure proper, free, prior, and informed consent has been given. It should also be explicitly stated how the gathered material relating to Indigenous cultural heritage may be used by the research team.

Roles and Responsibilities