



Lheidli T'enneh

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Research Ethics and Protocol
September 2016

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Purpose | 4 |
| Programs and Services | 7 |
| Lheidli T'enneh Research Values and Principles | 10 |
| Lheidli T'enneh Ethical Values and Principles | 13 |
| Informed Consent | 16 |
| Step by Step Guide | 17 |
| Considerations for International Research | 20 |
| Appendix A: Research Proposal On/With Lheidli T'enneh | 23 |
| Appendix B: Evaluating Research | 25 |
| Appendix C: Memorandum of Agreement | 26 |
| Appendix D: Schedule "A" - Summary Proposal | 29 |
| Appendix E: Lheidli T'enneh/Researcher Agreement | 30 |



Introduction

WHO ARE THE LHEIDLI T'ENNEH?

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nations (historically known as the Fort George Indian Band) is a community that is built on and around the strength of its people. T'enneh literally means "The People". They are a sub-group of the "Dakelh" people whose traditional territory includes the city of Prince George, British Columbia. The name "Lheidli" means "The People from the Confluence of the River" in the Carrier language, referring to how the Nechako River enters the Fraser River at Prince George. Lheidli T'enneh elders, teachers, drummers and other artists pass on their traditions and teachings to the next generation, keeping their culture alive and strong. The Lheidli T'enneh and their communities are built on the strength, guidance and leadership provided by their elders and on the passion, innovation and motivation of their youth to move forward in positive ways and change the world.

As a people, the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations aspire to move ahead as an organized, highly motivated, determined and self-reliant Nation. They represent a proud, united peoples whose purpose is to ensure a future that will provide better quality of life while flourishing with their environment. Their tradition and cultural beliefs are the driving force of their success and destiny.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a Nation the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations value research that has a positive, meaningful outcome for its people both on and off reserve, while remaining true to both the basic principles of solid ethical research and the guiding principles upon

which the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations communities are built. Our mission is to facilitate engagement between researcher and research and between our peoples/community and larger society in positive, productive and mutually beneficial ways.

The Lheidli T'enneh administrative team have considerable experience directing and engaging in programming and organizational-based research to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the community as a whole and its band members, both on and off reserve. They also recognize the value in research, community and organizational partnerships to engage in academic research projects and knowledge exchange practices.

This research and ethics protocol is designed to facilitate and guide meaningful dialogue and partnerships between Lheidli T'enneh and researchers, organizations and various others partners who wish to make contributions to the mandates, vision, mission and values of the Lheidli T'enneh while assisting the community in moving towards broader social, economic and political good.

RESEARCH WITH LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

Lheidli T'enneh is committed to an open-ended, dynamic, and evolving orientation to research ethics that is consistently reflective, adaptive and updated based on community input and needs. Lheidli T'enneh recognizes that policies are different from principles, and we support the research

principle' of research always being conducted in ways that are accountable to Indigenous ways of knowing and being. It is important to us that researchers understand that there is a long history of research being conducted "on" Aboriginal peoples. It is important that research on Aboriginal communities be decolonized. Decolonizing knowledge means that Aboriginal people have voice in research that involves us. It means that power relations are made visible and are attended to. Therefore, we prefer frameworks that validate Indigenous science, worldviews, and knowledge.

It is incumbent on prospective researchers to be familiar with the dialogue concerning ethical research with Aboriginal people. In particular researchers and potential partners must familiarize themselves with our community and the social, cultural and historical factors shaping and guiding the lives of Lheidli T'enneh peoples and communities. All research expressions of intent must take into account our research values and principals as well as the vision, mission and values of the Lheidli T'enneh peoples. This helps to ensure as good a fit as possible. The information found in this document is a starting point and is not meant to replace the importance of learning more and building relationships. A step by step guide to conducting research with/on the Lheidli T'enneh community and/or its people is included on page 17.



Purpose

THIS RESEARCH AND ETHICS DOCUMENT SERVES FOUR BASIC PURPOSES

1. First, to assist staff, community members, partners and potential partners in participating in research;
2. Second, to assist researchers/partners and potential partners in learning about Lheidli T'enneh and our communities' expectations around research and partnerships;
3. Third, to set out a research and ethics protocol that clearly outlines the ethical obligations of any researcher/partner who undertakes research on or with any aspect of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations community;
4. Fourth, to set out protocol to ensure that any research/partnerships on or with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation ensures adherence to our basic mission, values and vision while also ensuring the rights, privacy, and welfare of the peoples and the community remain intact.

We recognize the inherent value and necessity of good, solid research, and of meaningful relationships based on honesty and mutual trust. The heart of our practices is relationship building, honoring our cultural traditions and practices and our cultural knowledge. In this document, we describe our values and discuss research principles and practices that are important to us and to our community to ensure research relationships and collaborations/partnerships happen in a positive and productive way. For organizations and

researchers who are interested in engaging with Lheidli T'enneh, we invite them to read through these pages. It is our intent that they will gain insight into our community and to be better informed about how we approach partnerships and research.

This is a living document: it is aligned with our vision, mission and values as a community and peoples. It describes our protocol for engaging in research partnerships and our expectations for those partnerships. We acknowledge that relationships shift and change, as does the sheer nature of research. We as a community always maintain the right to sever a connection that for any number of reasons is deemed problematic to our community, partners, and partnerships or to the values, mission, and vision of the Lheidli community and peoples. We ask that potential projects and proposals both adhere to, and reflect the research protocol and ethics and the values, vision and mission of our community. All engagement with and on the Lheidli T'enneh community **MUST** ensure its language, traditions, protocols and culture are meaningfully acknowledged, respected and represented in the planning, implementing and reporting/use of ALL research. We are committed to the underlying principles of research ethics and as such also to research that ensures the voices of participants are heard, respected and reflected in all aspects of planning, implementing and dissemination of research.

COMMUNITY VISION

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation is a self-sufficient, sustainable, independent community with an educated and professional workforce able to compete in local, regional, national and international markets. Our peoples have excellent spiritual, emotional, mental and physical wellness and the traditional family unit is a source of strength. Our Nation is protected from external government intervention and all citizens are active members of the community.

MISSION

To advance the sovereign authority of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and to safeguard the reputation, assets and identity of the Nation and its citizens. In order for the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation to advance and prosper we need to have clarity and a greater vision for our people. We must build relationships and share our accomplishments and help offer tools to teach other Nations. We need to harness and nurture the potential of our people and revitalize our culture. We need to ensure the progress of our Nation, establish leadership through our youth and establish clear and consistent guidelines and policies for not only our programs and services, but our partnerships, collaborations and research.

VISION

The Lheidli T'enneh Government and officials will be accountable to their citizens through adherence to the constitution of Lheidli T'enneh. Leadership will promote the unity and well-being of the people through providing effective and accountable

government. Leadership will cooperate with one another in mutual trust and good faith, consult and inform one another, and coordinate their actions with one another.

FUNDAMENTAL VALUES


1. Equality of all people;
2. Fairness;
3. Trust and integrity;
4. Accountability and collaboration;
5. Respect for individual dignity and independence within the collectivity;
6. Transparency.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS

The Lheidli T'enneh is built on a governance system that strives for equality, justice, fairness, inclusivity, respect and integrity. The administrative body is focused on, and built around, accountability and transparency and working to ensure the best possible outcomes for the future of the Nation. As such, we are committed to learning about, building on and respecting our past, while promoting the best possible future for our youth. All partnerships and research initiatives undertaken with and on Lheidli MUST adhere to both the broader missions, values and goals of the community (and the ethics protocols) and advance the following goals:

- Promotion of youth through education comparable to and/or exceeding the standards prevailing throughout British Columbia. Promotion of the emotional, social, economic and physical health of the community and its peoples.

- Protect the community and its peoples from ANY mistreatment, neglect, or exploitative actions and/or behaviors.
- Promote and maintain the integrity and interests of the community and its peoples. This means access to all the resources, services and amenities that prevail in the rest of British Columbia.
- All engagements with/in the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation MUST be aware of, and promote their mandates of self-government, independence and integrity. NO research protocols or practices nor any partnerships shall seek to challenge the above in any way. As part of this, all research and partnerships are to be built with the Lheidli T'enneh vision, values and missions firmly in mind.
- All engagements in/with Lheidli for both research and partnerships MUST be premised on mutual accountability and transparency.
- All relationships MUST account for and be accountable to the administration and ethics committee. Similarly, there must be a keen awareness of, and attention to, the governance structure of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and its mission, values and mandates.



Programs and Services

The leadership of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation recognizes that their future rests on the skills, knowledge and health of their peoples. In order to ensure a strong and prosperous future the Nation provides many programs and services and positions education as one of its highest priorities. The leadership has developed a multi-layered approach that links education, employment and health services together to ensure that citizens of the Nation have the best potential for success.

The central shift is to view each program and staff member as 'agents of change' and community development. The Nation continually seeks funding and partnerships from both government and abroad. But we also move beyond this model to seek a wider range of services and programs by conducting our own research, evaluating programs and services, and developing and implementing new programs and services. As a Nation we also take full control and responsibility for oversight, delivery and implementation of all existing and new programs and services. Therefore the administration of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation operates a full range of programs and services in a fiscally responsible manner with focus on innovation, sustainability, expansion and collaboration with the community. The Nation's public services are managed and delivered with a high degree of transparency and accountability with clearly articulated regulations and policies. The programs and services of the Lheidli T'enneh include:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This department works to generate and expand sources of the Nation's revenue to be used to support long-term fiscal independence and self-sufficiency for the Nation and its citizens. In this department Lheidli T'enneh First Nation is able to advance large-scale economic ventures and partnerships, ensure employment, support the entrepreneurial spirit of its members, and become and remain a strong economic presence and partner in the larger community and in British Columbia itself.

EDUCATION

This department is dedicated to policies, programming and services that support and encourage Lheidli T'enneh citizens to discover and achieve their educational and career goals. Education is the highest priority for the Nation with a focus on the development of highly skilled and educated citizens. The community supports all of its citizens both financially and otherwise to reach their educational goals. It does this with easily accessible and supportive programs and services tailored to community needs.

EMPLOYMENT

The education department works to provide access to employment opportunities for ALL Lheidli T'enneh citizens and to ensure access to a sustainable and stable workforce required to advance the nation. This department works in partnership with communities to develop and provide a wide range of employment opportunities and training (and support services). The goal is

reduction of barriers, achievement and maintenance of low unemployment rates, and the overall reduction in poverty and dependency. This creates an improved quality of life for the Lheidli T'enneh Nation as a whole and positions us to participate in the world more fully and equitably.

FINANCE

This department actively works to ensure the sound management of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation's financial resources and to promote long-term financial growth and sustainability. Through appropriate use of technologies and skills (and research, partnerships) this department ensures and upholds the financial integrity and operations of all the Nation's programs and services. This ensures that the community is competitive in the programming and services and in developing and maintaining partnerships.

FISHERIES/FORESTRY

These departments are focused on preservation and promotion of the available natural resources as well as capitalizing on the economic and partnership opportunities therein. Both the forests and the natural resources and wildlife are viewed by the Lheidli as significant economic forces in their communities and as providers of health, food security and employment. Therefore, these departments actively promote the preservation and maintenance of these resources and their importance to the Nation as key to the realization of their vision, mission and values for the community as a whole.

HEALTH

This department is dedicated to the promotion of holistic health and wellness for all Lheidli T'enneh citizens, future generations, and the collective community that exceeds the current standards. This department provides programming and services that operate under the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and the promotion of self-care and personal management of wellness. In this way the Nation has its own infrastructure to support and sustain the long term health of its citizens but is in the practice of research and partnerships to enhance these health goals and community needs.

LANDS

This department works under the principles of environmental preservation and respect for the land. The Lheidli T'enneh maintains strong cultural ties to their traditional territories and view them as a source of pride and economic strength. The Nation is viewed as a vital decision-making partner within the region and Nation lands are managed in a fiscally responsible manner. Land based development balances both preservation and progress to ensure the Nation is able to assert their competitive advantage while upholding value for the environment. This department again depends on information, research and partnerships to reach and maintain its goals.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This department works to provide short-term, time limited financial assistance and support services to employable citizens in need of long-term resources

due to disabilities or other issues. This department provides programming and services to support Lheidli T'enneh citizens as a short-term measure to ensure citizens are not faced with undue financial hardships. The focus here is to support citizens in accessing opportunities for training and advancement that will support them to achieve sustainable financial independence. The department also provides a program called Persons with Disabilities [PWD]. The goal of this program is to provide long-term financial support to care for citizens unable to work and support themselves alone. Once again, this program depends on partnerships and research as key resources to develop, implement and maintain competitive and functioning programming and services.



Lheidli T'enneh Research Values and Principles

The purpose of this section is to identify and describe how the Lheidli T'enneh and its various partners (including government, universities and colleges and the public sector) can continue to build a cooperative, long lasting and mutually beneficial relationship where principles of respect, communication, trust and understanding will lead to positive and meaningful collaborations and partnerships. This document sets out research protocols and processes to both establish and promote a collaborative relationship for the advancement of mutually desired education, development, social, economic and research-related goals and initiatives. Essentially, this document sets out the principles and practices of research that are meaningful to the communities and partners that it serves. This document was produced in collaboration with community, the Lheidli T'enneh Administration and the University of Northern British Columbia to ensure all research and partnerships honor the mission, values and vision of Lheidli and its people, and that all voices are heard. As such this document provides a foundation to carry forward the agreed-to principles of research/partnerships that seek to provide mutual benefit to each party and the communities they serve.

During the past several decades, methods of data collection, organization and analysis have become more sophisticated and penetrating. As a consequence, the extent or scope of research has become greatly expanded. With this expansion has come increased awareness and concern over the ethics of both the research and the researcher. To a

large extent concerns about research and research ethics revolve around various issues of 'harm', 'consent', 'privacy' and 'confidentiality' and ensuring inclusive, representative and equitable research. This document represents an integrated area of importance expressed by Lheidli T'enneh around how to provide criteria and/or guiding principles and practices for those wishing to pursue partnerships and research with/in the community and with its people.

The following eight criteria have been set forth as the guiding principles for research. These are not ethical concerns but rather reflect some of the things necessary to keep in mind when pursuing partnerships/research with Lheidli T'enneh.

1. COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Make a commitment to open discussion, positive negotiation and problem solving
- Explore regular opportunities for dialogue and establishment of formal mechanisms and processes for communication and input
- Recognize and respect the diverse strengths and contributions each participant/research subject brings to the relationship
- Lheidli T'enneh will have full decision making on all matters related to the research mandate and process
- All research initiatives and processes MUST protect cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights
- All research processes and participants MUST commit to communicating appropriately on any issues relating to, or impacting those involved

in the research

- Agree that principles of sharing and transparency are integral to fulfilling the principles of cooperation and communication

2. RESEARCH PROTOCOL/ETHICS DOCUMENT IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING

- This document is not intended to be legally binding on any party involved in the research and/or research process
- It does not give rise to any contractual relationships between the involved parties
- It does not create any legal obligations to any involved parties, including an obligation to enter into any separate written agreements

3. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES INVOLVED

- The parties involved in any research with Lheidli T'enneh agree that this research and ethics document is NOT intended to, nor shall it, create a partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between the involved parties
- The parties intend that any agreement for cooperation in relation to specific activities will be documented in a separate and formal agreement executed by the parties in accordance with policies and procedures of the respective parties (and included within this document's appendices)
- Either party may initiate proposals for activities and initiatives under this document at any time
- Nothing in this document shall oblige a party to incur any costs or expenses or undertake any work or take any action except as may be provided in a formal agreement between the

parties, either in connection with an activity contemplated by this document or otherwise

4. MEMORANDUM WILL NOT PREVENT COOPERATION WITH OTHER PARTIES

- The parties agree that this research ethics/protocol document will NOT prevent any party from undertaking any activities or cooperating with third parties or acting independently of the other

5. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, FLAG USE, AND ETHICS PROTOCOLS

- The parties agree to consult each other before making any public announcements that would originate from any party involved or any collaboration contemplated

6. ALL PARTIES AGREE TO THE USE OF ANY LHEIDLI T'ENNEH PROPERTY, INTELLECTUAL OR OTHERWISE, AS APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

- The parties agree to promote the ethical conduct of co-managed research, including consideration of ownership, control, access, and possession and respective ethics boards/processes of all parties involved
- Principles of ownership, control, access and possession (as well as all other principles of research ethics) will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights will be considered. Strict ethical considerations, as laid out in this

document, will be followed for any and ALL research projects that involve human participation. In any cases of conflict between the parties about the conduct of research, all parties involved with Lheidli T'enneh will commit to open discussion, positive negotiation, and problem solving approaches to resolution. The resolution must not detract from the ethics, institutional or community-related responsibilities and requirements

- These individuals/groups, or designates, will be the points of contact for the research/ethics

7. TERMS AND TERMINATION

- All parties involved may review this research/ethics document and their relationship on an annual basis
- ANY party involved may terminate the research relationship at any time and for any reason with immediate effect by giving oral or written notice to the other party
- The termination of the research/relationship will not affect any rights or obligations under any formal agreement entered between the parties pursuant to this research/ethics document or otherwise. Any such agreement remains in effect according to their respective terms

8. COORDINATING OFFICERS

- In order to carry out and fulfill the aims of this document Lheidli T'enneh and parties involved will appoint the following people for more information *in regards to this research document and ethics protocol*:
- For Lheidli T'enneh: position of Executive Director and Research and Ethics Committee



Lheidli T'enneh Ethical Values and Principles

In addition to the previously agreed upon principles for any research involving or being done with/on the Lheidli T'enneh, there are also several ethical principles guiding all research carried out therein. Upon extensive consultation with the community, discussion with the University of Northern British Columbia and among Lheidli T'enneh administration, the following values and principles of research ethics have been identified as guiding principles and practices of research involving the Lheidli T'enneh community and/or its people.

RESEARCH INVOLVING REAL PEOPLES AND THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES IS VALUABLE

There must be mutual respect, validation and honor all throughout the research process. ALL research MUST preserve culture, language, values and customs.

RESPECT FOR PEOPLES, VALUES, AND CULTURE MUST GUIDE EVERYTHING

Researchers must respect the peoples and communities in which they are actively engaged in for research. There must be an agreement for mutual respect between researcher and the researched.

RESEARCHERS NEED TO RESPECT DIVERSITY

Researchers need to come to the research with an understanding that each community and community member is different (as is each research setting). Therefore, the researcher must be keenly

aware of and be sensitive to this and be ready to adapt.

POWER RELATIONS

There will be a recognition that the relationship between a professional researcher and the participants contains power relations, trust and authority or expertise. There can be ethical issues resulting from an abuse or misuse of power and authority. There will be a recognition (and ability by participants to terminate) based on the ethical, moral and researcher responsibility to guide, protect and oversee the interest of the people and places being studied. Thus, should members of the Lheidli T'enneh feel an abuse or misuse of power and power relations at any point during the research process, they reserve the right to terminate the research relationship.

RESEARCH OF ANY TYPE IS A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION

Research projects need to be negotiated and sometimes renegotiated. There is a recognition that research and research subjects/communities can and will change. With this in mind, it might be necessary to negotiate and renegotiate the research directions and guidelines along the way.

RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE RELEVANT

Related to the necessity that the research be a process of negotiation/renegotiation is that it must also be relevant. The research must be relevant to both the community of interest and its peoples, as well as the times in which the research is being done. All research must not only be relevant to the

times, but it must ask relevant questions and focus on relevant issues/topics/concerns etc.

ALL RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS MUST BE INFORMED AND GIVE INFORMED CONSENT

Issues surrounding informed consent grow out of the concern to avoid - or at least identify and make salient - potential risk to human subjects. Risk associated with participation in social scientific research includes exposure to physical, psychological, or social injury. For further information on the informed consent process, please see page 16.

RESEARCHERS WHO WISH TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE LHEIDLİ T'ENNEH MUST SPEND TIME TO GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBERS

It is not enough that researchers be familiar with First Nations peoples in general. Researchers ideally should spend time becoming familiar with the core values, mission and vision specific to the Lheidli T'enneh and its people. This is very important so that they are better able to appreciate and integrate this into the research processes and practices.

RESEARCHERS NEED TO BE ATTUNED TO POWER

There will be a recognition and awareness throughout the entire research process that the Lheidli T'enneh community and its peoples are fully informed and willing participants who are self-governed and self-sufficient. However,

participation **MUST** be premised on respect, equality and justice. The research and researchers **MUST** be aware that you need Lheidli more than they need you.

RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE CULTURALLY INFORMED AND ATTENTIVE THAT RESEARCH HAPPENS IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT

ALL research processes and protocols are premised on, and happen from/within a cultural context. There should **ALWAYS** be a keen awareness and recognition that the research is taking place within a First Nations community and with Aboriginal peoples and that the community has specific goals, values, mandates and missions. The research will **ALWAYS** work to preserve and be attentive to this and to the customs, culture and language of the community and people it seeks to do research with/on. It is important that researchers' work include Aboriginal individuals and Aboriginal groups in their research so that such individuals or groups are not excluded from the benefits that research may provide. It is important that any research involving Aboriginal individuals or groups be done with the utmost respect and cultural understanding.

If researchers want to know about a certain aspect of culture, custom or language, they should simply ask. Within this protocol there is a recognition and respect given to **ALL** Lheidli T'enneh elders as the core of community and peoples, as well as a core source of knowledge on culture, customs, language and community.

RESEARCH MUST ENSURE AND UPHOLD CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY

Although confidentiality and anonymity are sometimes mistakenly used as synonyms, they have quite distinct meanings. Confidentiality refers to protection of participants' and communities' identities, including any characteristics that may identify them. Anonymity refers only to the withholding of participants' and communities' names. In a literal sense, confidentiality means that participants and communities remain unidentifiable unless otherwise negotiated. Researchers involved with Lheidli T'enneh and the community will assure participants that anything discussed between them and the researchers will be kept in strict confidence (as with personal information) unless otherwise negotiated. Part of this means that researchers systematically change any personal information to a pseudonym or number when reporting data (unless otherwise negotiated). Researchers must also be very careful about how they discuss their participants and settings.

ALL RESEARCH NEEDS TO HAPPEN FROM A STANCE OF COMPASSION, EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

All research will be culturally sensitive and recognize that the Lheidli people and communities go through much daily and have both unique experiences and perspectives (as well as their own mission, values and mandates). With this is a recognition that the knowledge these communities share is of value.

THERE MUST BE A BUILDING OF RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECT

Researchers NEED to take the time to know the members of the Lheidli T'enneh community, staff and research committee. The unique strengths, needs, values, mandates, and mission of the community and its membership MUST remain top priority in the research process and practices.



Informed Consent

In ALL research with the Lheidli T'enneh there must be knowing consent of people who participate in research as an exercise of their choice, free from any element of fraud, deceit, duress, or similar unfair inducement or manipulation. In the research process, consent MUST be ensured in writing. There is to be an informed consent form that contains a written statement of the research protocols and processes. This form is to be signed by the Executive Director of Lheidli, the researchers and the participants.

This protocol is important for two reasons. First, it systematically ensures that potential subjects are knowingly participating in the research, and are doing so of their own free will. Second, informed consent documents provide researchers and funding agencies with a means by which to monitor the voluntary participation of subjects.

Basically, informed consent ensures that the community and its participants involved in any research know fully about the research, its goals, purposes and use. It also tells the participants something about the researchers (who they are, where they come from, and why they are there).

INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENTS USUALLY CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING

- A brief description of the purpose and procedure of research, including the expected duration of the research
- A statement of any risks or discomfort associated with participation
- A guarantee of anonymity and the confidentiality of records
- The identification of the researcher and of where to receive information about subjects' rights or questions about the study
- A statement that participation is completely voluntary and can be terminated at any time without penalty
- A statement of alternative procedures that may be used
- A statement of any benefits or compensation provided to subjects and the number of subjects involved
- An offer to provide a summary of findings



Step by Step Guide

Having oriented yourself to both our context and expectations about working with researchers, this section provides a summary of our processes for approaching us with research ideas and plans. This section is designed to orient you to the mechanics of proposing research projects with Lheidli T'enneh. Remember it is always the choice of the administration and/or the community to refuse a particular research project or work with a particular agency or organization. Additionally, it is always our choice to shift our expectations and vision for a project as our mandates, goals and objectives shift, and to accommodate the needs and best interest of the community as a whole. The following pages will provide you with a step by step guide to initiating and carrying out research projects with and on the Lheidli T'enneh.

1. ORIENT YOURSELF TO THIS MANUAL AND THE LHEIDLI T'ENNEH COMMUNITY (MISSION, GOALS, VALUES, MANDATES)

Please read the entire manual. Do the research about our people, history and community. Learn about where we have come from and where we are going as a people and a community. Familiarize yourself with the services we provide and the work we do.

2. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION AND CONTACT US

We require that you contact us and provide a complete (yet simple) description of the proposed research project. This must include not only the

what and why of your research, but also its utility to and for the Lheidli people and community. It is necessary that your proposal be thorough and easily accessible to those who may not be trained in research and ethics. Again, we are interested in how your research is going to benefit our community and peoples. Remember to reference how your research will fit with our goals, objectives, mandates and vision for our peoples and community.

3. LETTER OF SUPPORT, COMMUNITY RESEARCH AGREEMENTS AND ETHICS

This is a statement that we agree to work with you and that your research fits and is of interest to us. In this letter the partnership and collaboration is fully described in a form that is signed between Lheidli T'enneh and the agency or organization wishing to do the research. We also ask that all proposals for ethics review be shared with us so that we can review it and send it to other ethics boards if we deem necessary.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the potential researchers to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities assigned to the various participants in the proposed project. Our primary responsibility is to provide insight, guidance and direction on the application, research guidelines and process and on the sharing of knowledge and results throughout the research process. If we agree to partner with you on a research project you **MUST** have read and agreed to all contents of this document and especially be attentive to the following:

- Minimizing the risks for research participants, including staff and community members
- Ensuring the cultural safety, and confidentiality where applicable, of the participants and the larger community
- Negotiating access to the research participants
- We are involved in all steps of the process from inception and design/implementation of the project through to the analysis and dissemination of the findings to ensure it holds true to us as a community and our goals, missions, mandates and values
- We maintain all rights to and control over the knowledge we provide and that which is produced as a result of the research
- Ensuring that ALL reports, papers, presentations and such arising from this research represent our community and Aboriginal peoples in general in positive and constructive ways and do not further colonize and pathologize us

Note: we reserve the right to withdraw participation from the research at any time, if the project, or partnership, moves in a direction that ceases to be positive, productive and a good fit for us as a community and peoples.

5. STAYING IN TOUCH

Throughout the entire research process it is imperative that the researchers remain in constant communication with the Lheidli T'enneh administration and research committee, updating us on the progress and process of the research. We want to know how the research is going, be sure it's still a fit and what stage you are at.

6. BEING ACTIVE WITH LHEIDLI T'ENNEH AND MAINTAINING/PROMOTING YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH US


This means that you maintain contact with us and that you continue to support us through shared authorship of publications, presentations and publically acknowledging the role of Lheidli T'enneh in your research project and findings. In other words, we require that you continue to promote and acknowledge your partnership with us and do so in ways that promote and advance the public and professional goals of the community, while remaining true to our goals, mandates and missions.

7. INFORMING LHEIDLI T'ENNEH ADMINISTRATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF CHANGES TO THE RESEARCH

Sometimes the direction of the research changes, either by design or out of necessity. Sometimes the people and/or communities involved in the research shift and change. Our administration and research committee need to be kept informed of any changes to the research plan and process as it might impact our peoples/community and/or whether we remain involved in the project. If we deem a project to depart radically from what we initially agreed upon in the original proposal and discussions, we have the prerogative to terminate the research and/or partnership.

8. ONGOING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Lheidli T'enneh requires that we be kept informed of the work that results from any and all research conducted on/with our peoples and community. PLEASE involve us in reviewing/contributing to all materials developed and associated with the project. When the research is complete we require a 'package' that details all the processes and practices of the research as well as the outcomes and results of the research and your partnership with us. Included in this package should be all forms and documents pertaining to the research, presentations, reports, posters, etc.



Considerations for International Research

Debates on the ethics of international and multicultural research, particularly involving collaboration with (or research on) developing countries, has achieved high profile in recent years. At the core are issues of informed consent, harm, universal standards and codes of research ethics. Exploitation and lack of adequate attention to justice in the distribution of both risk/harm and benefits to individuals and communities are also at the forefront of international research ethics debates of late. To some extent all of this is the result of a growth in interest in research in developing countries, particularly since the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It also reflects a renewed interest in, and concern about, the nature of the relationship between the researcher and their subjects.

While the researchers are generally well educated and among the more privileged people, many research subjects are marginalized populations and/or those more vulnerable. As such, international research (and even more localized research on/with marginalized populations) requires that the researcher have a knowledge of the population of interest, in terms of attention to global/community/population disparities in health, wealth, and lifestyle/cultural practices. Against such a backdrop it is apparent that the ethical dilemmas faced in conducting both collaborative and international research can only be addressed satisfactorily if research ethics is seen as intimately linked to the promotion and preservation of dignity as well as social, political, economic, and cultural health and well-being.

Some populations or groups of research participants are not capable of giving true voluntary consent. Special populations are people who lack the necessary cognitive competencies to give valid informed consent or those in a weakened position who might forfeit their freedoms to participate in research. Some examples of such populations are students, the homeless, welfare participants, children, or the developmentally disabled. These and other populations might not be fully capable of making a decision, or they agree to participate only because they see their participation as a way to obtain desired goods, services etc. It remains 'unethical' to involve these populations in research unless the researcher follows TWO minimal conditions: (1) a legally appointed guardian provides written permission, and (2) the researcher stringently adheres to, and follows ALL standard ethical principles previously discussed to protect these vulnerable participants from harm.

Another ethical consideration when conducting research on international communities/populations and with marginalized and/or vulnerable peoples is avoiding the creation of NEW inequalities. Another type of harm happens when one group of people is denied a service or benefit as a result of their participation in a research project. The goal of the research should always be maximizing local benefits and minimizing exploitation. When conducting international research and projects with vulnerable and/or marginalized groups the same basic ethical principles apply as to regular research, of which there are generally eight:

- Collaborative partnerships
- Adhere to social values/social justice
- Retain scientific validity
- Fair selection of participants
- Favorable risk-benefit ratio
- Peer review all steps of projects
- Informed consent
- Respect for participants is built in

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some additional international research considerations are to address the following questions:

- What is the motivation for the international research?
- What are the rules of the research? Whose rules are they?
- Are you sure you are respecting and adhering to national norms, local customs and mores and generally cultural respect and integrity?
- In all parts of the research process was there: respect for persons, voluntary consent by

participants, and equal distribution of risk/benefits?

- Was there prior approval of research by ethics committees, written and informed consent and documentation (voluntary, understandable, explains risks and choices)?
- Was there continuing review of approved risk/benefits in case risk has changed?
- Was there a capacity established for participants to consent, voluntary participation, and freedom from coercion, full knowledge of risk/benefits?
- Was/is there cultural sensitivity to local research site/participants/culture? Included here is cultural sensitivity to community leaders/community involvement, language, spiritual/moral/legal values. Was there a full justification for research on a foreign population?
- Did the research go through an ethics body in the place of interest or a comparable country? Was there a review board that fully and properly reviewed the research and the process?
- Was/is there a recognition that Canadian/US ethics are not always comparable or follow similar methods?

RESEARCHER RESPONSIBILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

- Protection of human subjects
- Scientific validity
- Confidentiality protection
- Informed consent
- Responsible for study/research team
- Compliance with ethics committee requirements (report adverse experiences, protocol violation, participant complaints, conflicts of interest etc.)
- Integrity, respectful, professional, sensitive, cooperative
- Ensure appropriate review, approval and supervision by an ethics committee, monitor the research, select qualified researchers and provide policies and procedures for the research and its processes
- To comply with the local ethical, regulatory and legal requirements of the area of research interest
- Promote research integrity
- Ensure the local relevance of the research while involving local partners if possible and necessary
- To educate researchers about ethics.
- Ensure international researches understand and are sensitive to the social, economic and political milieu
- Involve members of the host country in research design and conduct if possible and applicable

APPENDIX A

RESEARCH PROPOSAL ON/WITH LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

1. What is the title of your proposed research?
2. What idea or question is your research asking?
3. What is the proposed timeline of your work?
4. How will your research be carried out?
5. What will the role of Lheidli T'enneh be in the project? What will Lheidli T'enneh be expected to contribute to the project (please be specific - are we going to need dedicated space, will staff time be taken up, will our clients, members, or staff be asked questions, will we be expected to comment on results of the work)?
6. Have other sites, groups, or organizations been approached for this research?
7. Explain clearly how your research aligns with the vision, mission, and values of Lheidli T'enneh. How will your research directly benefit our community and its people?
8. What is the project's commitment to confidentiality?
9. What is your recruitment strategy?

10. What do the research tools (interview guide, focus group guide, surveys, etc.) look like?
11. What plan is in place for counseling/debriefing for participants once the interviews, focus groups, surveys, etc. have been completed?
12. What is the plan for communicating the results of the study to the participants?
13. What honoraria amount is offered to participants?
14. Is there an administrative fee or honorarium available for Lheidli?
15. Tell us about yourself - why are you a researcher who would 'fit' with Lheidli T'enneh?
16. What are the credentials of the research team?
17. Is there any other relevant information about this study?

Note: Adapted from the Positive Living North Research Charter and Protocols Document (February 2001)

APPENDIX B

EVALUATING RESEARCH

As previously mentioned, at Lheidli T'enneh the main focus for our work is ensuring that optimum services and resources are available to our partners and community members. This means that we do not have the capacity to engage in all the research opportunities that come our way. Even exceptional projects may not get approved due to our operating capacity. However, in reviewing proposals, we will consider the following:

| POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES | RED FLAGS |
|---|---|
| <p>Clear benefits to Lheidli and community</p> <p>Acknowledges the community's history and its impact on proposed program of research</p> <p>Community-driven; community-based & community-paced, not researcher-driven (i.e. "Who has control?")</p> <p>Inclusive team approach supporting knowledge translation, good policy development and policy/practice implementation</p> <p>Builds the community's research capacity</p> <p>The research question was developed by the community</p> <p>Focus group follow up meetings to ensure accuracy of data and to foster community engagement</p> <p>Collaborative analysis of data</p> <p>Collaborative drafting of final report</p> <p>Impact - follow up work</p> <p>Engagement and practice are centered in cultural practices and understandings</p> <p>Care is taken to ensure Aboriginal people are presented in a positive light that highlights peoples' strengths</p> | <p>Not community-driven; limited community engagement</p> <p>Issues that can be misconstrued</p> <p>Feeds into existing stereotypes</p> <p>System-centric not person/community/people-centric</p> <p>Culturally inappropriate</p> <p>Methodology does not attend to inclusion/exclusion or power/control</p> <p>People/persons not involved in a good way</p> <p>Outcomes: nothing planned for the results (i.e. knowledge translation problems)</p> <p>Colonial language</p> |

APPENDIX C

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: RESEARCH PROTOCOL

Between:

[Community name & address]

(The “[Community]”)

And:

Researcher Name and Address

(The “Researcher”)

WHEREAS:

- A. [Research consultant name], under the supervision of [ORGANIZATION AFFILIATED WITH], will carry out fieldwork [purpose of project], in the [community] (provide Summary Proposal, attached as Schedule “A”);
- B. The [name specific location of activity(s)] is within that part of the traditional territory of the Lheidli T’enneh for which the [community] are caretakers;

This Research Protocol Agreement (the “Agreement”) records the mutual understandings of the Parties, as of the day and year recorded below.

1. The [community] agree that [name] and any other researchers [she/he] uses (the “Researchers”), under the supervision of [organization, professor, educational institution], may undertake the work set out in the attached Summary Proposal (Schedule A).

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

2. The Researcher will comply with the research intent, methodology and timeframe as set out in the attached Summary Proposal (Schedule A).
3. After the collection and analysis of data, a presentation on the research may be made to the [community] and their community, should the [community] wish it, at a location chosen by the [community].
4. The information and data gained about [insert topic here] will be made available to the [community] for review and approval prior to public distribution.

5. A copy of the final thesis and a summary report of data will be provided to the [community] for review and approval prior to public distribution.

RESEARCH CONDUCT AND KNOWLEDGE

6. All research activities associated with this study, including the handling, storage and publication of data, shall be conducted according to the [organization/schools/government standards] Research Ethics Approval and guidelines.
7. The Researcher shall keep the identity of individual participants and interviewees anonymous in all published documents and public research presentations, except where permission to identify an individual is explicitly granted by that individual, either in writing or by verbal consent on an audio recording.
8. Raw interview data shall be kept confidential by the Researchers. Interview transcripts will be sent to interviewees for their review and approval, with the opportunity for interviewees to clarify or change wording, to ensure that their intended meaning has been communicated and correctly interpreted.
9. Interview recordings will be kept in confidence by the Researcher for seven years after the research has been conducted. After that time, the audio recordings and transcripts will be provided to the [community] First Nation, should they wish it

PUBLICATION AND RESEARCH RESULTS

10. It is understood and recognized that the people of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and the Lheidli T'enneh are the owners and keepers of their traditional knowledge, language, and all other aspects of their land use, management and cultural practices. The Researcher will explicitly recognize First Nations ownership of this knowledge in all publications of research results.
11. It is understood by all parties that any interpretations, analysis, and opinions regarding research results and data expressed in the thesis and other published documents reflect views held by the Researcher.
12. The [people] understand that data gathered as part of this study may be summarized in report form by the Researcher, for use in the thesis, publications, and presentations for academic and professional purposes. Direct narrative quotations from interviews may be used after interviewees

- have reviewed and approved the interview transcripts.
13. The [community] will be notified and consultation will be undertaken regarding any popular media (i.e. television, radio, or journalistic print publication) exposure that occurs with respect to the study.
 14. It is understood by all parties that the research results, in the form of a doctoral thesis, academic publications, and public presentations, will be publicly available and accessible in accordance with university practices.
 15. This Agreement is intended to support the efforts of the [community] and the Researcher in their common objective of understanding the culture and community of the researched.
 - a. Nothing in this Agreement shall abrogate or derogate from any Aboriginal title or Aboriginal rights of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation or Lheidli T'enneh people;
 - b. Nothing in this Agreement shall be taken to mean that the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation or the Lheidli T'enneh has in any way abandoned or given up its title and rights.
 16. This Agreement may be signed in counterpart.

The parties have signed below to witness entering into this Agreement,
This ____ day of _____, [year].

Chief [Name]
For the [community]

Witnessed and co-signed by:

[Researcher Name]
[Organization/School/Other affiliation]

Witnessed and co-signed by:

APPENDIX D

SCHEDULE "A" - SUMMARY PROPOSAL

Purpose of the Research Project

Research Objectives

Methodology

Research Outputs

Agreements and Protocols

Timeframe

APPENDIX E LHEIDLI T'ENNEH/RESEARCHER AGREEMENT

I _____ acknowledge that I read, understand and agree with all aspects of this research ethics document. I _____ agree to adhere to all of the requirements and stipulations put forth in this research ethics document.

Researcher(s) Signature:

Lheidli T'enneh Representative(s) Signature:

Date Signed:
