
NunatuKavut Community Council

Research Application Guide

BACKGROUND

Research Governance in NunatuKavut

All research done in NunatuKavut should be useful, relevant, and beneficial to our people, territory, and interests. To ensure this, the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) works to actively identify, guide, review, and lead research in our territory.

NCC's research governance process is designed to identify research priorities, co-ordinate research in alignment with these research priorities, maximize research benefits, promote respectful and relevant research, and strengthen NCC research capacity.

All research in NunatuKavut must be approved by the NCC Research Advisory Committee (RAC) before any data collection begins.

Research Principles

All research in NunatuKavut should respect the following principles:

- Research should align with NCC priorities, values, and concerns
- Research must be done in partnership with NCC, within respectful relationships
- Research must benefit NCC and NunatuKavut communities directly
- Research must not harm NunatuKavut Inuit, territory, and communities
- Research must strengthen research capacity in NunatuKavut by hiring and/or training NunatuKavut Inuit
- NunatuKavut Inuit should be involved throughout the research process by participating in data collection, analysis, interpretation, and results verification
- Research must respect NCC's data sovereignty, including its right to make decisions about research data ownership, control, and access
- NunatuKavut co-researchers should be co-authors of publications and presentations

RESEARCH REVIEW PROCESS

NCC Research Priorities

Please contact NCC staff to discuss NCC's research priorities. NCC encourages all researchers to align their research with these priorities.

Research that does not align with these priorities should be discussed with NCC staff in the relevant department (Health; Environment & Natural Resources; or Research, Education & Culture).

Research Development and Planning

Research teams should involve NCC staff and NunatuKavut community members. These NunatuKavut research partners should play key roles throughout the research process, from the early planning stages and development, to data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Engagement with NCC staff and NCC researchers needs to occur as early as possible (through emails and phone calls if in-person meetings are not possible).

Research teams must contact NCC's Research Manager (bwood@nunatuKavut.ca) before submitting a research application, in order to discuss the research, to ensure that it meets NCC's requirements, and to ask any questions about the review process.

Research Review

NCC's research review process will take approximately six weeks, from the submission of the research application to the receipt of the review decision and suggestions.

The research application is reviewed by NCC's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to address both community interests and ethical concerns. The RAC will assess the application to ensure that the research is respectful, ethical, and fits within NCC's priorities, timelines, resources, and interests.

If the project aligns with NCC's research priorities and has strong NCC involvement, the RAC will likely only work to strengthen the proposal at this stage by suggesting ways to improve it.

All research in NunatuKavut territory must have approval from RAC and, if applicable, institutional research ethics boards in order to proceed.

Research Application

Please use clear, concise, and non-technical language when completing the NCC Research Application. In order to develop a strong proposal, please ensure that the research project reflects NCC's research principles (see page 1 of this guide).

You will need the following additional information, as applicable, to complete your application:

- Ethics review approvals, permits, and other relevant approvals (received or pending)
- Map of research site, if outside NunatuKavut communities
- Research protocols, including interview guides, surveys, sampling guides, etc.
- Consent forms for human participants
- Recruitment materials for human participants

If you have any questions, or to submit a completed application, please email NCC's Research Manager, Bryn Wood, at bwood@nunatuKavut.ca.

Research Agreement

After RAC approves the research application, the research team and NCC will jointly develop a Research Agreement to clearly outline the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the research team, NCC staff, and community members. The agreement should be adapted to the specific needs of each project.

All research agreements contain the following components:

1. Research project title
2. Research team contact information
3. Research application outlining research design, methods, and participant consent process
4. Monitoring for compliance with agreement and conflict resolution
5. Duration and termination of the research agreement

Research agreements may also contain some of the following components:

1. Funding description and responsibilities (*including responsibilities for funding employment, training, travel, conference attendance, etc.*)
2. Data ownership, control, access, possession, and secondary use of data
3. Methods and roles in data analysis and interpretation (*How will the community and NCC be involved in interpreting the results?*)
4. Methods and roles in validation of preliminary results (*How will the community and NCC have the chance to review and approve preliminary results?*)
5. Deliverables and dissemination of results (*Co-authorship decisions? NCC reviews and approves all papers before publication? NCC reviews and approves all presentations and pieces before they are made public?*)