

## Research Ethics Bulletin #5: Organizational Approvals

Researchers in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) should be aware that institutions, organizations, or other groups under study may have requirements for allowing access to their sites and to participants, and that some of these may have established mechanisms or guidelines e.g., school boards, Aboriginal communities, correctional services, Regional Health Authorities, and community groups.

Therefore, once your study has received ethics approval from the HREB or ICEHR, organizational approval may also be required. Organizational approval is not another ethics review; it is a separate and distinct process. It is your responsibility to seek the necessary organizational approval from the Regional Health Authority or other organization as appropriate prior to commencing your study.

### **Research involving Regional Health Authorities**

All approved health research involving a Regional Health Authority (Eastern, Central, Western and Labrador-Grenfell Health) must be reviewed by their respective Research Review Committee(s). These committees examine applications for research that require the use of its facilities, staff time, health records or other data, and/or services and programs that effect its operations. Research Review Committees review studies to assess the resource implications and to determine whether it can be accommodated by or be of benefit to the Regional Health Authority.

Please visit the HREA website for further information and contact details for the different Research Review Committees for each Regional Health Authority: <http://www.hrea.ca/Organizational-Approvals.aspx>.

### **Research involving Aboriginal Communities**

Aboriginal Research Advisory Committees (RACs) are committees that review applications by researchers to conduct research with a particular community or on Aboriginal lands. The review by an Aboriginal RAC is for the purposes of ensuring that the research is conducted in a manner that is appropriate to the spiritual, cultural, social and environmental context of the community, in keeping with the needs, expectations and values of the community, and conducted in keeping with the principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access and possession).

Individual community RACs should be consulted about the process for applying for review. Along with the Application, community review requires that consent forms and recruitment materials (posters, letters of invitation etc.) be approved.

For further information please consult Chapter 9 of TCPS 2, the '[Guidelines for conducting research with Aboriginal communities in Newfoundland & Labrador](http://www.hrea.ca/getdoc/d8ee6cd2-2fc8-4160-998f-5d436ce5af1d/General-Research-(Non-Clinical-Trials).aspx)' (available on the HREA website: [http://www.hrea.ca/getdoc/d8ee6cd2-2fc8-4160-998f-5d436ce5af1d/General-Research-\(Non-Clinical-Trials\).aspx](http://www.hrea.ca/getdoc/d8ee6cd2-2fc8-4160-998f-5d436ce5af1d/General-Research-(Non-Clinical-Trials).aspx)) and consult with the appropriate Newfoundland and Labrador Aboriginal Research Advisory Committees below:

- Nunatsiavut Research Advisory Committee
- NunatuKavut Research Advisory Committee
- Innu – Natuashish community or Innu leadership approval
- Innu – Sheshatshiu community or Innu leadership approval
- Conne River Health and Social Services, Miawpukek First Nation
- Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation

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