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**Title:** *Research involving Indigenous communities in the north: Comparing ethics practices in Canada and Finland*

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Research involving Indigenous peoples in Canada has been defined and carried out primarily by non-Indigenous researchers. The approaches used have not generally reflected Indigenous world views, and the research has not necessarily benefited Indigenous peoples or communities. As a result, within the Canadian context, Indigenous peoples continue to regard research, particularly research originating outside their communities, with a certain apprehension or mistrust. As a result, guidelines and protocols have been developed by Indigenous communities, such as: The First Nations principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access, possession); and government organizations: Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) *Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal People*; to assist researchers who plan to conduct projects in Indigenous communities in Canada. Taken a step beyond guidelines, Canada also has the Tri-council Policy Statement on Research involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. This Policy aims to assist those who use it – researchers, sponsors, members of research ethics boards (REBs), participants, and the public – to identify ethical issues in the design, conduct and oversight of research and to point the way to arriving at reasoned and ethical responses to these issues.

Experiences when working with Indigenous people in Canada and Finland in a research setting are vastly different. For example, currently there is no extra layer of ethics required at the community level for working with the Sámi in Finland; it is only required at the university level. The Canadian/Indigenous research ethics policy and practices can serve as a model for developing guidelines in other parts of the Arctic, however, the ideas of what is needed should be rooted in the epistemologies of the Indigenous population of the country developing the policies. During this session will be a discussion of how, where, when, why and by whom research ethics guidelines are developed for Indigenous communities.

Abstract text