

## Research Oversight in the Northwest Territories

Conducting research is both a privilege and a responsibility. This guidance document provides information for researchers about the oversight processes involved when conducting research in Canada and in the Northwest Territories. This information is presented for learning purposes – researchers are responsible for understanding the requirements of their field of study and the regions they are proposing to work in, as these may change over time.

### Common Areas of Research Oversight

#### Research Licensing

Research licenses are required for all research taking place in the Northwest Territories under the *Scientists Act*. The licensing process is administered by the Aurora Research Institute. For more information see the *Research Licensing Guidance for Researchers* document included with the Session 6 resources or visit the Aurora Research Institute webpage: <https://nwtresearch.com/licensing>.

#### Research Ethics

All research involving human participants requires a research ethics review as per the requirements of the Tri-Agency federal research funders. Researchers are required to comply with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (available here: [https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique\\_tcps2-epc2\\_2018.html](https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-epc2_2018.html)). The process for applying for research ethics review is administered by the institution – for more information contact the Office of Research or the Research Ethics Board of the institution that will administer the funds.

#### Health Research

Research that includes medical data from the health system, involvement of NWT healthcare staff or use of territorial healthcare facilities requires a review by the territorial Department of Health and Social Services (HSS). Depending on how your study is designed, this could be due to requirements under the *Health Information Act* or a requirement of the Department's research policies. For more information or to contact the HSS research coordinator, visit the HSS research webpage: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/health-and-social-services-research-nwt>.

### Land and Water Permits

There are four land and water boards that regulate the use of land and water in the NWT: the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, and the Wek'ézhii Land and Water Board. For more information or to apply for a permit, visit the central website for all four boards (select "apply for a permit/license"): <https://slwb.com/>

### Research involving Animals

Research that requires interaction with animals, either in a laboratory setting or in the field, may require an animal care review as per the requirements of the Tri-Agency federal research funders. The Canadian Council on Animal Care sets out the requirements for research involving animals (available here: <https://ccac.ca/en/standards/fundamental-principles.html>). The process for applying for animal care review is administered by the institution – for more information contact the Office of Research or the Animal Care Committee of the institution that will administer the funds.

### Species at Risk

Research that involves aquatic species at risk requires a permit from the federal government according to the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information about whether a permit is required and how to apply, visit the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/permits-permis/index-eng.html>

### Indigenous Government Oversight

The research licensing process requires engagement with Indigenous governments in the regions you propose to work in while the research ethics process requires that any research involving Indigenous people must be approved by the relevant local Indigenous authorities in order to meet research ethics standards. Consultation may also be required by Indigenous governments as per their land claim entitlements and government policy.

Be sure to contact the Indigenous governments in the region(s) where you hope to conduct research to understand any permitting, reporting, or oversight processes they may require.