



Research and Research Ethics FACT SHEET SERIES

Fact Sheet #2 – March 2009



Participating in Research

Participation in the research process is a topic that has been widely discussed among researchers and others since the 1980s. Much of this discussion was about what it means to be a participant or partner in a research project and how to best respect each others' knowledge.

These discussions helped to shape different types of research, such as participatory action research, and also resulted in the development of research guidelines.

Today, most researchers are required to follow **guidelines** when they plan to research a theme that involves getting information from other individuals. If researchers are working in a university, they have to follow the guidelines of their university and those developed by the three main research funding agencies in Canada. (See Fact Sheet #9 on Guidelines.)

In addition, a researcher needs to follow **rules** set out by provincial, territorial or Inuit governments which require the researcher to obey research protocols. Legislation is in place

in some areas, such as Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, which requires researchers to receive a research license before starting the research in communities.

If a researcher asks an Inuit community member to take part in a research project, they're asking this person to help them find the answer to their



research question. In health research, this could mean they want to ask personal questions. They might also want to take a hair, blood or other samples from the person. They could also want information about the person's children. These are all examples of **private information**.

A Research Participant Has the Right to ...

- ▶ say 'No'—at any time.
- ▶ say 'Yes' to only certain parts of a project or set conditions for their involvement.

- change her/his mind during the project and stop being involved.
- be informed in the language of their choice.
- get clear answers to all of their questions.
- see the results of the research.



A Research Participant Can Ask ...

- all about the project, the researcher and who is paying for it.
- what kind of information participants will be asked for and how it will be used.
- who will see their private information and how the researcher will protect it.
- how the project will affect the participants—the benefits and risks.
- if participants will be paid and how much.
- how the results of the project will be reported and used.
- the researcher to prove that they have permission from community, regional or territorial research review authorities.

Taking part in research can be a great experience. The results can help us and our communities. To make sure research and research results work for us, we stay informed about research trends, ethics and participation.

Research and research ethics are the key focus of the **Inuit Nipingit – National Inuit Committee on Ethics and Research**. Inuit Nipingit is co-ordinated jointly by Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

Fact Sheet #2: “Participating in Research” can be retrieved from www.naho.ca/inuit/e/ethics.

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