

The Expert Panel on the Future of Arctic and Northern Research in Canada

Building upon existing Northern leadership, Indigenous sovereignty, and self-determination, the **Expert Panel on the Future of Arctic and Northern Research in Canada** sets out the elements required to create an inclusive, collaborative, and effective Arctic and Northern research system. The report adopts a from the North perspective and acknowledges the rights and the responsibilities affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

DOING RESEARCH IN A GOOD WAY

Throughout every aspect of the research system—funding, infrastructure, data, and education—the narratives of the South have dominated, diminishing Northern priorities and goals and leading to less effective research overall. Moving forward, focusing on Northern voices—Northern Indigenous voices in particular—can uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination while supporting a more inclusive, collaborative, and effective Arctic and Northern research system.

What are the key foundational elements to create an inclusive, collaborative, effective, and world-class Arctic and Northern research system in Canada



Justice, which furthers Indigenous Peoples' right to research leadership and self-determination.

Cultural security for Indigenous Peoples, their knowledge systems, and their data.

Accessibility in all areas, including processes and outputs at the community and decision-making levels.

Accountability to Northern Indigenous Peoples, rooted in responsibility and reciprocity.

Avenues for Transformational Change



Equitable transformation includes increasing human, financial, and infrastructure **capacity** across the research system.

Capacity refers to the needs identified by Indigenous communities and the capacity of non-Indigenous people to respect Indigenous rights and ethically engage with Indigenous Peoples.

Transformational change means shifting decision-making **influence** from the South to the North.

Influence includes Northern Indigenous leadership in research, without which any changes remain superficial.



ASPECTS OF A TRANSFORMED ARCTIC AND NORTHERN RESEARCH SYSTEM

FUNDING

- A long-term vision for research, jointly created by all actors
- Flexible and specialized funding streams tailored to the Northern context
- Expanded eligibility criteria that promote inclusivity
- Ongoing monitoring of research practices and their socioeconomic outcomes
- Perspectives and priorities of Indigenous Peoples represented within decision-making bodies

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Elevation of Indigenous leadership in development of research infrastructure
- Responsibility for ethics review and research approvals lies with Indigenous institutions
- Compliance with guidance to ensure research appropriately consults, collaborates, and benefits Indigenous Peoples
- Recognition of Indigenous rights and knowledge systems by non-Indigenous researchers
- Well-supported and appropriate social, cultural, and health services

Actors in the research system: federal, provincial, and territorial governments; funders; Indigenous Peoples, governments, and organizations; post-secondary and research institutions; domestic and international researchers.



DATA

- Indigenous Peoples own and control their data and knowledges
- Data-sharing and ownership, or access and benefit sharing agreements are integrated into research programs
- Data stewardship arrangements are accountable to Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous Peoples' access to data is maintained
- Information is shared in accessible formats and languages
- Communities determine the most appropriate approaches for data sharing

EDUCATION

- Education at all levels is effective, accountable, and culturally relevant
- Diverse educational approaches such as on-the-Land learning and oral information sharing are recognized and affirmed
- Indigenous-led, accredited education programs to advance educational attainment in the North are supported
- Compulsory education about the history and Peoples of the North for Southern researchers and institutions undertaking research

The North is not simply a location for research. It is the homeland of Indigenous Peoples and other Northerners, as well as the plants and animals that dwell across the diverse Arctic region. The voices and leadership from within the North—from Northern Indigenous Peoples in particular—are central to a transformed research system.

