



Traditional Knowledge Data-Sharing Agreement

Traditional knowledge gathered from Indigenous communities and people is an important resource. Both communities and individuals are keepers of collective cultural knowledge. Researchers must treat this knowledge with respect and only share it with consent.

All traditional knowledge projects and projects that include both traditional knowledge and science **must** have and submit a Traditional Knowledge Data-Sharing Agreement to receive funding. This agreement will clarify how traditional knowledge will be shared with various parties. The agreement ensures you have:

- explained to each person how you will use their knowledge
- received formal consent from each person to share their knowledge

NWT CIMP has a sample [template](#) to help you draft an agreement that meets the needs of everyone involved. Projects can modify this template in collaboration with the community, if necessary.

Every agreement must specify:

- any traditional knowledge you gather from the project remains the property of the people who shared it with you
- the agreement does not override the fact that Indigenous communities have full rights over their own unique traditional knowledge
- what information will be shared and with whom, while protecting the communities' rights to their knowledge
- the project may share summaries of the research in documents, publications, reports, videos, presentations, websites, or posters (NWT CIMP requires summaries we can share publicly)
- the research based on traditional knowledge can be considered in government decisions
- that the project will use, store, and share traditional knowledge in a way that honours its commitments to confidentiality

Traditional knowledge agreements, policies, and guidelines are common in the NWT, and some communities or organizations already have these in place. You should follow or refer to the documents below, depending on which communities you are working with. It is always best to check directly with the community or organization! You can also review these documents as examples to model your agreement on:

- Akaitcho Dene First Nations
 - Akaitcho Exploration Agreement (2008)
- Aurora Research Institute
 - [Guide to Research in the Northwest Territories \(2011\)](#)
- Deh Cho First Nation
 - [Deh Cho First Nation Traditional Knowledge Research Protocol \(2004\)](#)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
 - [Traditional Knowledge Policy 53.03 \(2005\)](#)
 - [Government of the Northwest Territories Traditional Knowledge Best Practices Summary \(2010\)](#)



- Gwich'in Tribal Council - [Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute](#)
 - [Traditional Knowledge Policy: Working with Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge in the Gwich'in Settlement Region \(2004\)](#)
 - [Conducting Traditional Knowledge Research in the Gwich'in Settlement Area: A guide for researchers](#)
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
 - [Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Guidelines for Research in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region \(2000\)](#)
- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
 - [Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Engagement and Consultation Policy \(2013\)](#)
- Mackenzie Valley Review Board
 - [Guidelines for incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment \(July 2005\)](#)
- North Slave Metis Alliance
 - [North Slave Metis Alliance Community Engagement Policy \(2009\)](#)
- NWT CIMP
 - [NWT CIMP Working Together Towards Relevant Environmental Monitoring and Research in the NWT \(2013\)](#)
- Sambaa K'e Dene Band
 - [Sambaa K'e Dene Band Policy Regarding the Gathering, Use and Distribution of Traditional Knowledge \(2003\)](#)

Note: A Traditional Knowledge Data-Sharing agreement as part of a NWT CIMP project is not intended to replace or supersede other agreements or relationships between the GNWT and Indigenous communities and their governments.