Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool

SCPOR Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research

OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool (IRLET) measures the degree to which a given project meets patient-oriented research criteria in the context of Indigenous communities. The criteria evaluated in this tool include Partnership (Indigenous Stakeholders), Knowledge into Practice, Strengths-Based Approach, and Indigenous Knowledges/Ways of Knowing, rated on a scale from 1 to 5.

Users of the IRLET will find it helpful to review the IRLET Companion Document when scoring incoming projects, or while using it as a writing guide.

INSTRUCTIONS

- The evaluation tool scores each category on a continuum from 1 to 5. A score of 1 represents limited patient-oriented research criteria have been met within the project. A score of 5 represents all aspects of the project meet ideal patient-oriented research criteria, for instance: community members are activity involved in all aspects of the research project, the team has representation from Indigenous communities and/or Indigenous organizations, appropriate health system stakeholders, utilizes strengths-based approaches, privileges Indigenous ways of knowing, and knowledge translations activities have been planned and approved by all members of the team.

- Each category should be assessed individually and then summed to provide a total score.

- A score of one indicates the lowest score possible and a score of five indicates the highest score possible in each category. The optimal total score for a project is 20.

Score → / Criteria ↓	1	2	3	4	5	Criteria Score
Partnership with Indigenous Stakeholder(s)	Indigenous stakeholders are informed by research teams about projects but are not invited to engage in any phase of the project. The project appears to offer no lasting or tangible benefit to the Indigenous stakeholders. The budget does not meet the needs of the Indigenous stakeholders.	Indigenous stakeholders are named as team members who are consulted throughout the project in regard to research priorities and outcomes. The project offers limited, short-term benefits to the Indigenous stakeholders. It is unclear whether the budget meets the stakeholder's needs and/or financial supports are not identified	Indigenous stakeholders are named as team members who are involved throughout the project in identifying research priorities and outcomes. The project offers tangible benefits to the stakeholders, although limited and short-term. The budget meets some of the stakeholder's needs and some financial supports are identified.	Indigenous stakeholders are active partners who collaborate with team members throughout the research project. The project offers a numerous and long-lasting tangible benefits to the stakeholders. The budget meets many of the stakeholder's needs and financial supports are identified. The project proposal is attainable and accountable.	Indigenous stakeholders are equal partners with decision-making autonomy over attributes of the research project (e.g. use of Indigenous research methodologies). The project offers meaningful and lasting benefits to the stakeholders. This includes long-term training and capacity building, policy change. The budget meets all of the stakeholder's needs and numerous financial supports are identified .The project proposal is attainable and accountable	
Knowledge into Practice	Indigenous stakeholders are informed of knowledge translation plans and activities by research team, but do not have decision-making power in regard to their data.	Indigenous stakeholders are consulted and minimally involved in developing knowledge translation plans and activities with research team, but do not have decision-making power in regard to their data	Indigenous stakeholders are involved in the development and application of knowledge translation activities with research team, but it is unclear whether communities have decision-making power in regard to their data.	Indigenous stakeholders collaborate with research team in determining knowledge translation plans that are beneficial to Indigenous stakeholders. Indigenous stakeholders have some decision-making power in regard to their data. There is a healthy research relationship, but there is no formal research agreement in place.	Indigenous peoples' self-determination is respected as active creators and implementers of the knowledge translation plan. A research agreement is in place, reflective of OCAP and/or Metis data-governance principles, outlining a comprehensive knowledge translation plan that is beneficial to Indigenous stakeholders.	
Strengths-based Approach	The proposed project relies on Western-colonial based health indicators that are deficit-based, as well as Western health models to identify solutions.	The proposed project appears to consider existing Indigenous strengths-based approaches (e.g. resiliency and wellness) but does not appear to move towards overcoming deficit-based models.	The proposed project appears to be aware of Indigenous historical and social realities (trauma-informed) and is informed by Indigenous resiliencies and wellness however aims to provide solutions based on Western health models. The project appears to move towards overcoming deficit-based models.	The proposed project is aware of historic and social realities (trauma-informed) and references and capitalizes on Indigenous resiliencies and wellness as defined by Indigenous community partners. This project appears to move towards overcoming deficit-based health research models but may be informed by Western-colonial based health indicators.	The proposed project is aware of historic and social realities (trauma-informed) and aims to improve quality of life and offer strengths-based solutions by building on Indigenous pathways to resiliency and wellness. The proposed project shifts perceived deficits away from the individual and places health issues into the appropriate context (e.g. colonization, systemic racism).	
Indigenous Knowledges and Ways of Knowing	Western knowledges and ways of knowing are privileged throughout the proposal. The proposal does not include any plans to include any Indigenous stakeholders in contextualizing and interpreting data.	Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing are recognized, though not meaningfully engaged within the proposal. The proposal includes plans to consult Indigenous stakeholders about data, however their roles are unclear or tokenized.	Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing are acknowledged and there is effort in the proposal to include them in methodologies, analysis, etc. The proposal includes plans to involve Indigenous stakeholders in contextualizing and interpreting data, their roles are clearly outlined but participation is limited.	Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing contribute greatly to the proposal; this is reflected in methodologies, analysis, etc. Indigenous stakeholders help decide which knowledge and ways of knowing are used. The proposal includes plans to collaborate with Indigenous stakeholders in order to contextualize and interpret data, their roles are clearly outlined but participation is not integrated throughout the entire duration of the project.	Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing are privileged throughout the proposal; methodologies, analysis, etc. Indigenous stakeholders help decide which knowledge and ways of knowing are used. The proposal indicates that Indigenous stakeholders will work closely with the research team to contextualize and interpret data, their roles are clearly outlined and participation is integrated throughout the entire duration of the project	

Notes:

_____

_____

_____