

Shared Purpose

A Community Guide to Ethical Research Partnerships

Presented By:

Changemark Research + Evaluation

Date:

January 29, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we reaffirm that Changemark is located on the stolen land of the x^wməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and sə́ilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. With humility and gratitude, our work also takes place on sovereign Indigenous lands and traditional territories across Turtle Island.

Changemark recognizes that an acknowledgement of territory is not enough but is an important social justice and decolonial practice that promotes Indigenous visibility and serves as a reminder that we are on settled Indigenous Land. We give thanks to the Peoples of these territories for their ongoing stewardship of the land since Time Immemorial and keeping it healthy and strong for future generations.



The Raven's design represents change, they bring an imminent and constant change as gatekeepers of the dark void. Raven's carry messages from the ancestors in the spirit world and raven medicine helps bring light to people on earth.

– Words and logo by Margaret August, Coast Salish Artist

Today's Speakers



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(she/her)

**Project Manager, Changemark
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**Executive Director,
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Isabelle Boisvert
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**Knowledge Translation +
Community Engagement Expert,
Changemark Research + Evaluation**

Agenda



Introduction to the Guide



For and By the Community



Why the Guide Exists



Guiding Principles



What to Expect



Guide Overview



How to Use the Guide

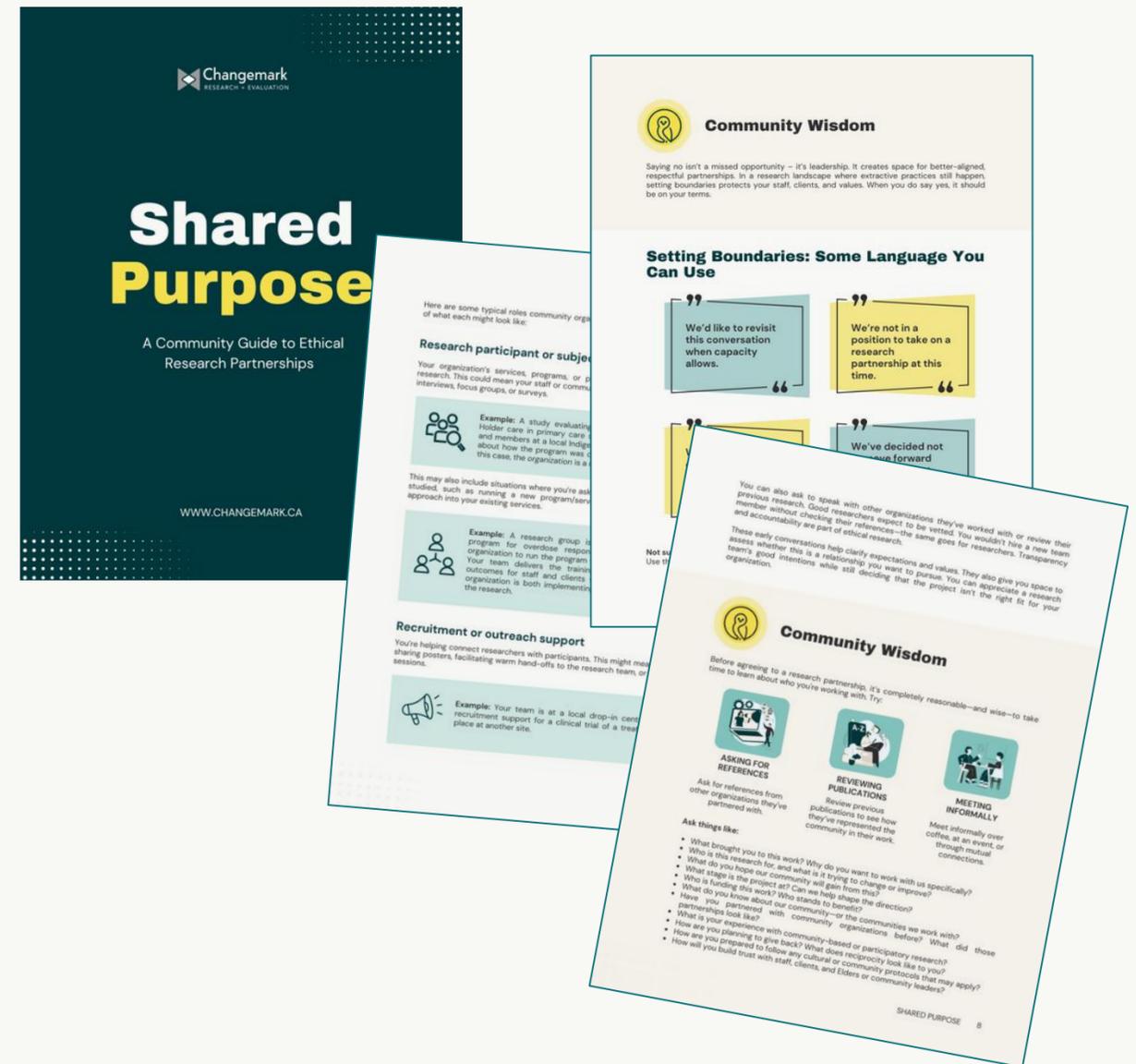


Closing Reflections + Q&A

Introducing the Shared Purpose Guide

What is Shared Purpose?

- A community guide to ethical research partnerships.
- Co-developed with peers, Elders, providers, and advocates.
- Aims to help organizations decide when and how to engage in research.
- Seeks to shift research from:
 - Top-down, institution-driven projects → to BOTTOM-UP community-driven, reciprocal partnerships.
- Builds on Research 101 and OCAP® principles while offering practical, action-oriented tools



For and By Community: Creators and Co-Contributors

Authors and Contributors

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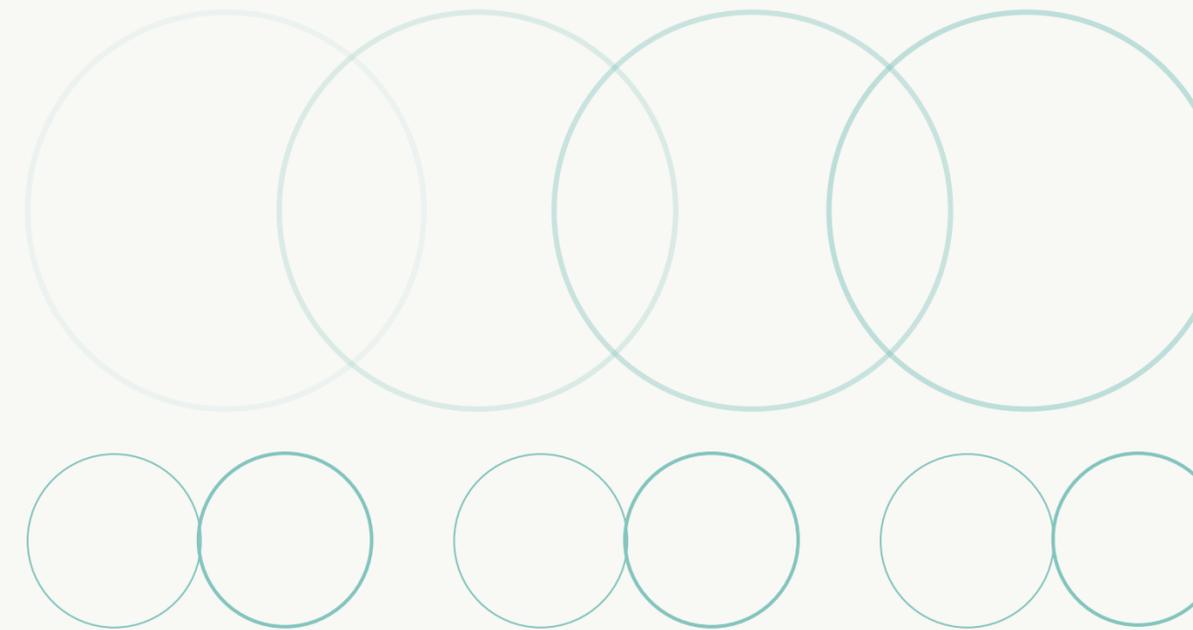
Hilary Black, Social Impact Lead, Changemark Research + Evaluation

Special Thanks

Thank you to Kilala Lelum Health Centre's Research Committee Members for generously sharing their Research Charter with us. The time, care, and community guidance that went into creating such a thoughtful document is evident. Having the chance to draw from this Charter is truly a gift. It sets a strong example and paves the way for other community organizations to engage in research in a good way.

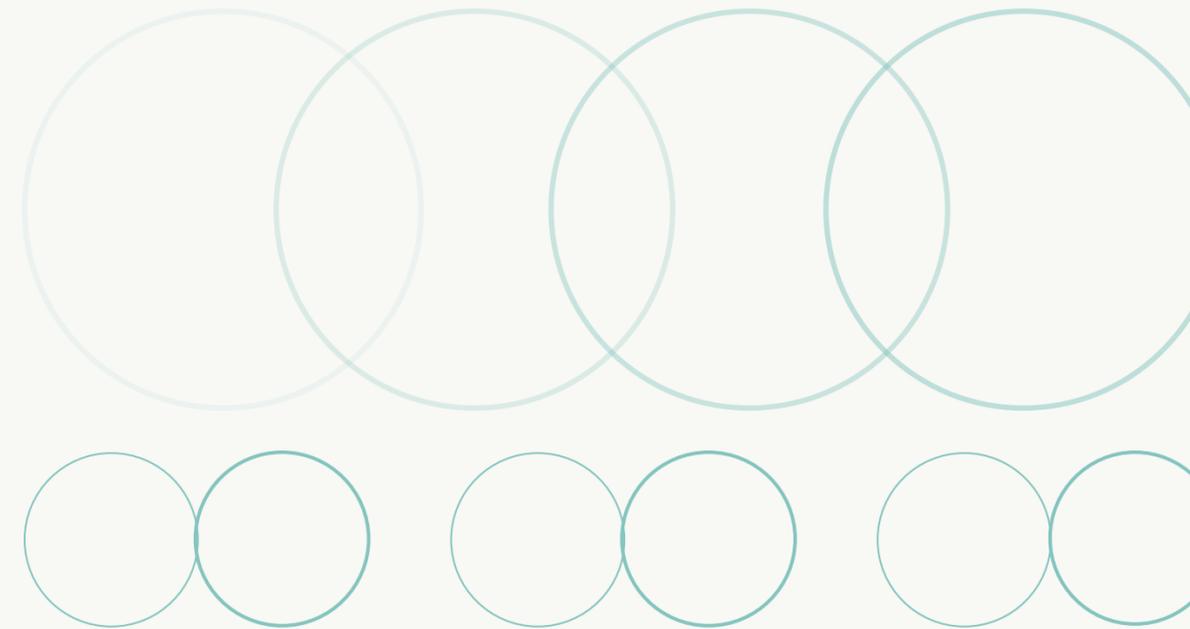
Why This Guide Exists

- Research can be powerful:
 - Unlocks funding, shifts policy, validates lived experience.
- But often it **reinforces harm**:
 - Projects end abruptly with no continuity.
 - Communities are asked for input on decisions that have already been made.
 - Benefits don't flow back; sometimes risks or harms increase.
- Community organizations **need tools** to evaluate alignment, capacity, and benefit.
- Shared Purpose was created to **support informed choice, reciprocity, and accountability in research.**



Why This Guide Exists (Continued)

- Communities **are often excluded from recognition**: researchers frequently fail to report back or properly cite community and peer contributions
- **Peer and community labour remains largely invisible**
 - Under-funded, under-timed, and rarely acknowledged despite its central role in community-based research success
- This guide **makes the research process explicit**, naming the relational, ethical, and practical work often left undocumented
- Even when communities or organizations are **engaged late in a project**, the guide offers concrete ways to **do things well** from this point forward



Guiding Principles



Respect

for the cultural, emotional, and intellectual contributions.



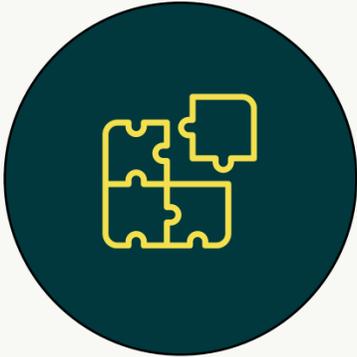
Reciprocity

ensuring benefits flow both ways.



Responsibility

to uphold commitments, prevent harm, and honor protocols.



Relevance

to your community's needs, strengths, and priorities.



Relational Accountability

rooted in trust, care, and long-term connection.



Representation

that reflects lived realities, not deficit-based narratives.

What You Can Expect

The guide covers the entire research cycle:

Funding → Research Design → Ethics → Recruitment → Data Collection → Data Analysis → Results + Dissemination

What You'll Find:



Community Wisdom

Real-world examples and community-based insights.



Practical Tools

Checklists, decision aids, and sample agreements



Discussion Prompts

Reflection questions to help assess fit and readiness



Resource Library

A curated library of additional resources

What You Can Expect (Continued)

Powerful elements of the guide:

- Red Flag, Green Flags + Negotiation Tips
- Sample Research Partnership Agreement
- Example Research Review Committee Charter
- Sample Research Application Form
- Sample Data Sharing Agreement
- Sample Research Complaint Pathway Tool

Red Flags, Green Flags + Negotiation Tips

Red Flags: When to Proceed with Caution <i>Be cautious if:</i>	Green Flags: Signs of a Strong Respectful Partnership <i>Feel confident moving forward when:</i>
↓ Researchers won't sign a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)	● Researchers collaborate on and agree to a Data Sharing Agreement that reflects your priorities and rights
↓ There's no compensation for your time or space	● Your organization is compensated fairly for your time, space, and contributions
↓ Participant compensation is low, delayed, or issued through stigmatizing means (like gift cards instead of cash)	● Participants receive timely, adequate, and respectful compensation (e.g., cash, e-transfer, or culturally appropriate alternatives)
↓ You have no input into recruitment or data collection design	● You are actively involved in designing recruitment and data collection to ensure relevance and respect
↓ Researchers will not commit to sharing findings with your organizations or community for review before they are published or made public.	● Researchers commit to returning findings to your organization and community before public release
↓ The project timeline feels rushed and unrealistic	● The project allows for a reasonable timeline with space for review, input, and adaptation
↓ You're pressured to sign on quickly	● You are given ample time to consider and discuss the opportunity before committing
↓ No clear plan exists for sharing results back	● There's a co-developed plan for sharing findings back in community-accessible formats

Sample Research Application Form

Application Form
Use this template form to help researchers clearly communicate their intentions, plans, and expectations before any partnership begins. You can provide it directly or adapt it as part of your own review process with your Community Research Review Committee.

Section 1: Contact and Project Information

Researcher Applicant Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Title of Proposed Research Project: _____
Date of Submission: _____
Proposed Start Date: _____

Section 2: Pre-Application Checklist

1. Please check all that apply so that we understand the scope of your request:

- To post notices or posters about a research project conducted at other locations, inviting [insert your organization name] staff who wish to participate.
- To post notices or posters about a research project conducted at other locations, inviting [insert your organization name] clients/service users/members who wish to participate.
- To invite [insert your organization name] staff to participate in your proposed study.
- To invite [insert your organization name] clients/service users/members to participate in your proposed study.
- To consult with [insert organization] staff or people with lived/living experience about any aspect of the proposed research process.

Sample Community-Research Partnership Agreement

This Agreement is entered into on this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between:

Community / Organization/ Indigenous Nation: _____
Name: _____
Representative: _____
Role/Title: _____

Ally Organization / Research Partner:
Name: _____
Representative: _____
Role/Title: _____

Purpose and Shared Vision
This Agreement affirms a shared commitment to co-create knowledge in a way that honour and reflect the priorities, knowledge systems, governance, laws, and lived realities of the communities involved. The partners agree to work together in a good way, respecting the sovereignty, leadership, and needs of the [insert community, organization, indigenous Nation] in all aspects of the work.

Guiding Principles
This partnership is rooted in the following shared principles:

- Community self-determination and leadership in research matters
- Respect for diverse worldviews, cultures, and knowledge systems including Indigenous ways of knowing.
- The OCAP principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) and community-specific protocols when working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit data.
- Community ownership and control over their stories, data and contributions.
- Relational accountability, reciprocity and trust.
- Transparency, honesty, and open dialogues.
- Equitable sharing of knowledge, recognition, and benefits.

Scope of Work
The partners will co-develop and implement research activities that reflect the community's priorities and knowledge systems, such as:

- Community-led research design and approval processes.
- Knowledge gathering in ways that honour community protocols, cultural practices, and governance.
- Shared data analysis, meaning-making, and interpretation.
- Story-sharing and knowledge mobilization that benefits the community.
- Community capacity building, mentorship, and opportunities for leadership.

Shared Responsibilities
Responsibilities of the Community/Organization/ Indigenous Nation:

- Provide direction, leadership, and guidance on all research activities.
- Identify community protocols, values, and practices (including cultural) to be respected.
- Appoint community members to lead or co-lead the project.
- Review and approve all knowledge products before they are shared externally.

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Sample Data Sharing Agreement

Between [Research Institution] and [Community Organization]

1. Purpose
This agreement sets out the principles and processes for respectfully and responsibly sharing data collected as part of the [Project Name] research project. This partnership is grounded in mutual trust, transparency, and a commitment to support the health, well-being, and sovereignty of the community.

2. Parties to the Agreement
Researcher(s): [Lead Researcher Name], [Institution Name], [Department]
Community Organization/Nation: [Community Organization Name], [Representative Name/Position]

Both parties acknowledge and respect the rights, ownership, and interests of the community in the data collected during the project.

3. Scope of Data Shared
The data covered by this agreement includes:

- [Specify types of data: e.g., interviews, surveys, program statistics, health data (de-identified), narratives, etc.]
- Timeframe of data collection: [Dates]
- Any limitations on use: [Specify if applicable]

4. Principles of Data Sharing
The parties agree to the following principles:

- Respect for Ownership and Control: Community members and organizations retain ownership over their own data and stories.
- Collaborative Use: Data will only be used for the agreed-upon purposes and in ways that benefit the community.
- Transparency: Both parties will communicate openly about how data is used, shared, and interpreted.
- Confidentiality and Privacy: Data containing personal or sensitive information will be protected and shared only in ways that comply with privacy laws and the values of the community.

Use of Data
The shared data may be used for:

- Collaborative analysis and interpretation
- Joint presentations and publications (with prior approval)
- Program development, planning, or service improvement for the community
- Any other mutually agreed purposes

SHARED PURPOSE

Sample Research Complaint Pathway Tool

This tool offers a starting point for creating clear, accessible guidance on where and how to raise concerns related to research participation and/or partnerships. Whether you're a community partner, a research participant, or someone supporting others involved in research, it can be difficult to know who to contact if something goes wrong or simply doesn't feel right.

Every collaborative research process should include a transparent pathway for filing concerns or complaints, tailored to the local context and shared early on. This sample version is based on research conducted with University of British Columbia and regulatory bodies in British Columbia, but it can be adapted to reflect your local jurisdictions and project.

EXAMPLE BC POCKET CARD: Research Gone Wrong? Here's Who You Can Call

Concern	Who to Contact
Concerns about your rights or experiences as a research participant	UBC Research Participant Complaint Line 604-822-8598 or 1-877-822-8598 RSI@ors.ubc.ca
Broader ethical or study misconduct concerns	UBC Office of Research Ethics Director: Jean Ruiz Phone: 604-827-5310 Email: jean.ruiz@ubc.ca
Ethics violations or research misconduct in federally funded research	Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research (SRCR) – National Oversight https://ethics.gc.ca secretariat@srcr-sccr.gc.ca Web: SRCR – Submit a Complaint
Clinical trial harm or misconduct	Health Canada Clinical Trial Compliance clinical-trials-bioequivalence@hc-scc.gc.ca
Harm from a doctor, nurse, or social worker in a research setting	Their Professional Regulatory College (e.g., College of Physicians, Nurses or Social Work).
Research misconduct or scholarly integrity (e.g., plagiarism, data falsification, fabrication, unauthorized data use)	UBC Vice-President Research: research.integrity@ubc.ca

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Toolbox Example

Sample Research Application Form

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- To post notices or posters about a research project conducted at other locations, inviting [insert your organization name] **clients/service users/members** who wish to participate.
- To invite [insert your organization name] **staff** to participate in your proposed study.
- To invite [insert your organization name] **clients/service users/members** to participate in your proposed study.
- To invite [insert your organization name] **clients/service users/members** to participate in your proposed study.
- To consult with [insert organization] **staff or people with lived/living experience** about any aspect of the proposed research process.
- To consult with [insert organization] **staff or people with lived/living experience** about research processes in general.

SHARED PURPOSE

Application Scoring

Use this checklist to help evaluate whether a proposed research project is a good fit for your organization and community. Each question can be scored on a scale from 1 to 5 where:

1 = Not addressed or major concerns
 2 = Minimally addressed, significant gaps remain
 3 = Somewhat addressed, needs improvement
 4 = Mostly addressed, minor issues remain
 5 = Fully addressed, clear and appropriate

Pre-Application

Question	Score (1-5)	Comments
Is the scope of the request clearly defined (e.g., recruitment, location, on-site research)?		
Has the researcher indicated they hold research credentials and specified the source?		
Is the researcher able, has the researcher indicated student status and organizational committee details?		

Project Summary and Supporting Documents

Question	Score (1-5)	Comments
Is the project title and PI/CV information complete?		
Are investigators and institutional affiliations clearly listed?		
Does the research summary include sufficient detail on research objectives?		

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Why is this research important now, and how will it add value to the current context or evidence base?	
If the study includes a service or intervention, what happens to participants when the study ends?	
What experience do members of your team have working with communities like ours?	
How does the project adhere to the principles of meaningful community engagement?	
How does your project integrate trauma-informed, cultural safety and humility approaches?	
How will the knowledge being generated through the project be shared back with our organization and the community(ies) involved?	

How to Use it



Start where you are.

Research isn't a linear process.



Use it to reflect.

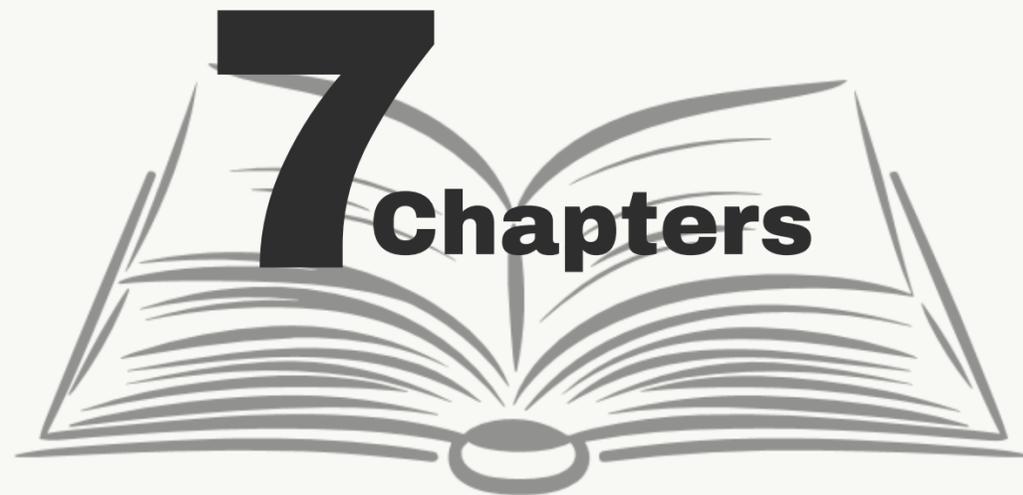
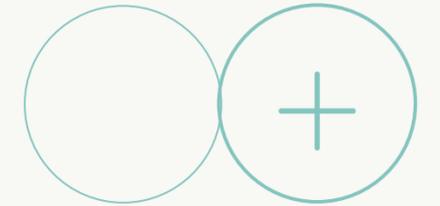
Use the guide for reflection, planning, or active negotiation.



Share it with partners.

Share it early to shape collaboration from the start.

Guide Overview

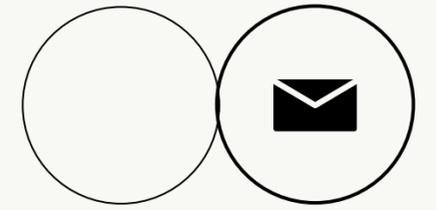


&

Practical Tools

- + **Chapter 1: Start with the Relationship:** Building trust, centering respect, and setting the foundation for partnership.
- + **Chapter 2: Defining Roles + Expectations:** Clarifying what's being asked of community organizations (participant, advisor, host, etc.) and what's reasonable
- + **Chapter 3: Ethics – Who's Ethics?:** Exploring multiple ethical frameworks (academic, Indigenous, community-based) and who decides what counts as ethical practice.
- + **Chapter 4: Data Collection, Access + Ownership:** Negotiating data use, storage, governance, and respecting Indigenous data sovereignty.
- + **Chapter 5: Returning Results:** Ensuring findings are shared back first with communities in accessible, meaningful ways (zines, talking circles, meals, art).
- + **Chapter 6: Formalizing the Relationship:** Using MOUs, partnership agreements, and role cards to set terms of engagement and protect community interests.
- + **Chapter 7: Saying No or Not Yet:** Guidance on declining partnerships that don't align with community priorities, or postponing until conditions are right.
- + **Toolbox:** Practical tools and templates for building stronger research partnerships.

Closing Reflections



- Research should strengthen, not exploit communities.
- Shared Purpose is a tool to make that shift real.
- **The call:** use it, adapt it, and embed it in your own partnerships.



What are your questions?



Thank you.

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