

Indigenous Patient, Family, & Community Engagement

Best practices for engagement and partnerships with
Indigenous organizations and communities

This resource is part of a series of information pamphlets and supports for Ontario Health Teams and all those working to advance integrated health and care services for First Nations, Inuit, Métis populations.

Advancing a Patient-Centred, Safe, and Effective Health Care System

Co-designing and co-producing health care systems with input from the community and those with lived/living experience is critical to advancing a patient-centred, safe, and effective health care system. Ongoing, purpose-driven, and meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities is essential to create effective change that will result in improved health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.



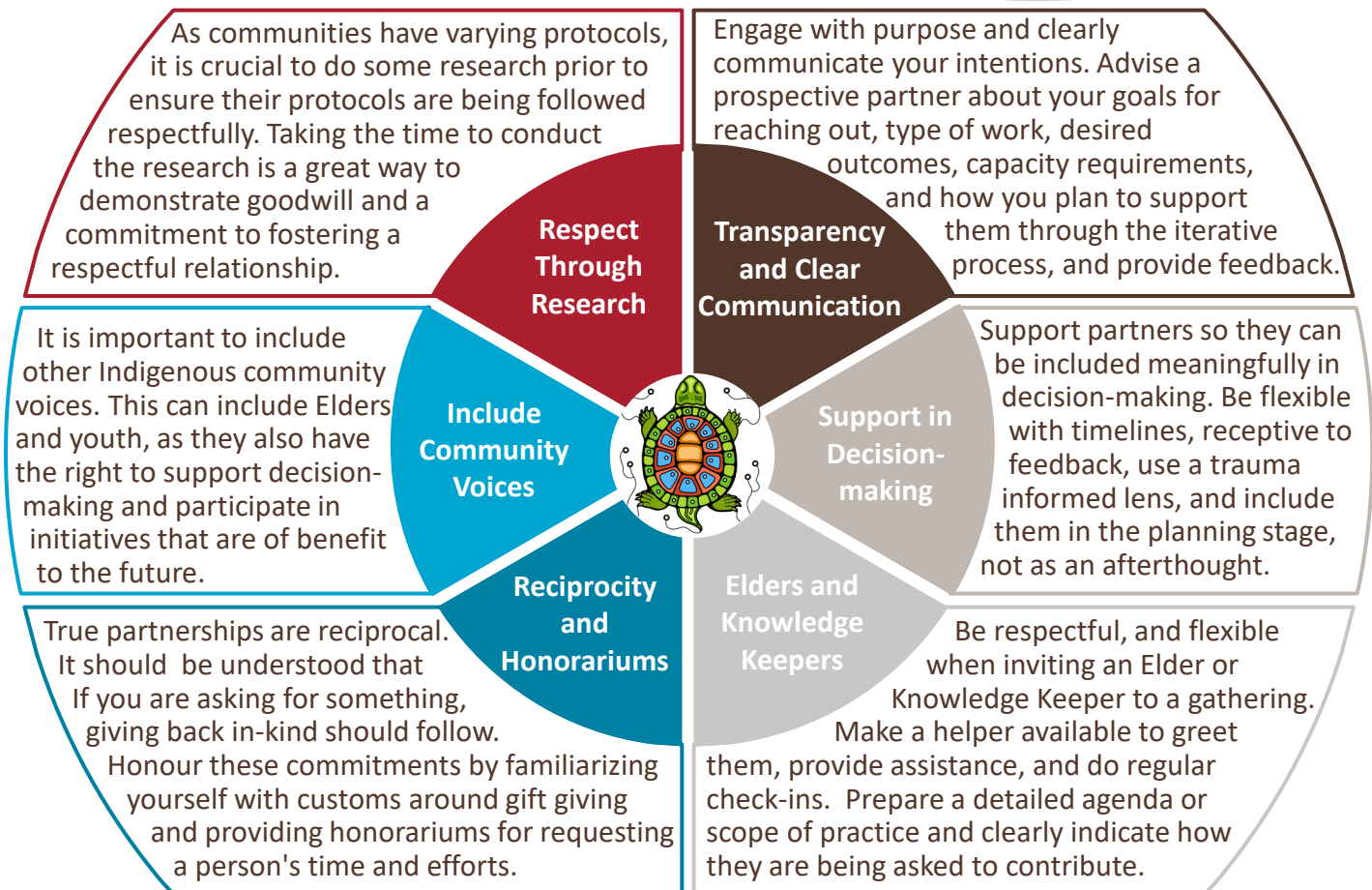
Engaging with Indigenous Organizations and Communities

First Nation, Inuit, Metis, and urban Indigenous (FNIMul) Peoples are distinct and diverse. As such, it is important to recognize the diversity of groups you can connect with and take the time to get to know where your work may intersect with that of Indigenous organizations, groups, and communities. Then, be sure to explore the many avenues for collaboration and inclusion to build meaningful and respectful partnerships.

Additional Resources can be found at [IPHCC.ca](https://iphcc.ca) or scan the QR code
[Indigenous Patient, Family, and Community Engagement Toolkit](#)
[Wise Practices Guide](#)
[Culturally Appropriate Language Guide](#)
[Respectful Engagement in Indigenous Cultural and Ceremonial Events](#)
[Land Acknowledgement Resource](#)



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Acknowledge the traditional or treaty territory

A meaningful Land
Acknowledgement means understanding the treaty area or traditional territory you are meeting on as well as knowing the people and what they call themselves. You can also mention your contribution to stewardship, what those implications are for your work, and/ or give thanks to the land. Expressing gratitude is an important cultural practice.



Meet in person whenever possible

Building meaningful relationships happen best in person. While there, be willing to participate in what's before you, whether that is an outdoor event, a fishing trip on a beautiful day, or story sharing, etc. It is important to be present and involved as this will demonstrate your genuine willingness to connect on a deeper, more personal level.



Be respectful of ceremonial aspects

Be respectful of any ceremonial aspects required during the gathering and do not skip these sections of the event. While this may sometimes take up valuable meeting time, it is important to acknowledge that these meaningful activities are an integral part of the occasion and play a significant cultural role in the overall process of relationship building.



Appreciate the relationship building process

Appreciate that this not a one-time interaction, rather, a true relationship building process. Recognize that relationships are living, breathing things, and depending on how they are nurtured, will grow and change over time. This process, however, takes time and requires more than one meeting to build a solid foundation for collaboration.