

NMRWB Research Trust Fund Consultation Guidelines

The NMRWB envisions a collaborative research approach with active involvement from local communities to reach common objectives. Therefore, research projects funded by the NMRWB must include consultation before, during, and after each project.

For clarity, consultation requires researchers to proactively provide all necessary information to affected parties in a timely manner, ensuring they have a reasonable opportunity to express their interests and concerns, this must include consultation beforehand and continuous feedback and engagement during, and after each project. It is the duty of the researcher to ensure that the project details are meaningfully communicated and clearly understood by the community partners. Importantly, the project description and all communications should be provided in Inuktitut. Then the feedback should be integrated into the research proposal and considered during the project planning especially when it is highly significant to those affected.

Initial Contact Requirements:

- At least one month prior to submitting an application to the NMRWB Trust Fund, and 4 months prior to the planned commencement of the project, applicants must present themselves and provide a project description outlining objectives, justification, and methods, to all affected Anguvigait (LNUK*), and the Anguvigaq (RNUK) as appropriate.
- Proof of sending these initial contact letters must accompany the Trust Fund application.

Letter of Support Requirements:

- For projects taking place in fewer than four communities, a letter of support from each affected Anguvigait (LNUK*) is required.
- Projects taking place in four or more communities require a letter of support from the affected Anguvigait (LNUK*) and the Anguvigaq.
- Proponents are encouraged to obtain support from relevant Anguvigait (LNUK*)/Anguvigaq before applying for NMRWB funds.
 - If the letters of support from the relevant Anguvigait (LNUK*)/Anguvigaq are expected but delayed, they can be submitted **prior to the commencement of the project** as a funding condition,

In cases where the project leader is unable to obtain letters of support from all affected Anguvigait (LNUK*), the NMRWB may still consider or fund a project if:

** If the Anguvigait (LNUK) is undergoing elections, or not functioning for any other reason, other local organizations may be engaged to fulfill consultation requirements, as long as the Anguvigaq is also contacted for a support letter.*

- A majority of communities provide supporting letters, and the researcher adequately consults; or
- The researcher conducts consultations, and there are no objections from the communities, even if formal support letters are absent.
- If objections exist despite consultation, the matter can be brought to the attention of the Board for consideration.
- The project is in line with the Board's research priorities and addresses gaps in existing knowledge that may be needed for future Board decisions.

When support letters cannot be obtained, the following demonstrations of consultation are required:

1. Describe the timing and methods of consultation.
2. Provide evidence of adequate communication with affected Anguvigait (LNUK*) and Anguvigaq, offering all necessary information for proposal evaluation.
 - a. A reasonable opportunity to express interests and concerns, and to provide a letter of support.
3. Document feedback (interests and concerns), even if no supporting letter is provided, and show that a response was made, either by adapting the project design/planning or by providing an explanation as to why the change could not be implemented.
4. Present evidence of adequate follow-up communications, including phone calls, one or more emails, and faxes, with copies of written communications.
5. Include all responses from Anguvigait (LNUK*)/Anguvigaq to follow-up communications.

Project Reporting:

When projects are funded by the NMRWB, researchers are expected to report project results to local communities and the affected Anguvigait (LNUK*). Plans for community reporting must be detailed in proposals, with copies of the reports submitted to the NMRWB. The NMRWB recommends that all projects provide in-community reporting of results but understands that due to costs and logistics, this is not always possible.

Translation Requirements:

- All communications and documents must be translated into Inuktitut.
 - If the document is longer than 3 pages, then a summary can be translated.
- All in-person communications/meetings must have an interpreter present.

** If the Anguvigait (LNUK) is undergoing elections, or not functioning for any other reason, other local organizations may be engaged to fulfill consultation requirements, as long as the Anguvigaq is also contacted for a support letter.*

Example Timeline:

First week of January: send a project description and request for feedback

- Affected Anguvigait (LNUK*)
- Anguvigaq

3rd week of January: send a reminder to organizations from which no response was obtained and offer phone meeting to address questions received.

February:

- Address concerns/suggestions expressed in responses to the project description and design.
- Send reminders to organizations from which no response was obtained
 - By phone call
 - By email
 - By fax
- Obtain letters of support.
- Submission of funding application to NMRWB

March: Present and answer any questions raised (NMRWB meeting), follow up with an update to the Anguvigait (LNUK*) and Anguvigaq.

These are consultation requirements for the NMRWB Research Trust Fund. Other permitting requirements may apply to projects.

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