

## **Request for Quote: Environmental Scan & Needs Assessment** Research Ethics Review: Indigenous Perspectives & Practices

### Background & Purpose

CanReview is a pan-Canadian collaboration enabling single research ethics review for multi-site clinical trials conducted across Canada, while ensuring the highest ethical standards. Selected in late 2024 through an open competition and Canada-wide/international review process led by the CIHR-funded Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT) consortium, CanReview has been collaborating across the country's clinical trials community to establish a framework for a single research ethics review with consistent, predictable timelines while safeguarding quality through compliance to relevant Canadian regulatory requirements.

CanReview is a voluntary system and its auspices relate strictly to research ethics review. CanReview brings together highly qualified Research Ethics Boards (REBs) into a distributive REB of Record model, enabling, for example, an REB in New Brunswick to approve a study initiated in British Columbia. CanReview operates an online platform that enables investigators conducting clinical trials and health studies across multiple provinces and territories to submit one application, through one system, for one study-wide ethics approval. A key goal of CanReview is to increase access to clinical trials in rural, remote and underserved regions by increasing coordination and collaboration. See how CanReview works [here](#).

As CanReview moves forward, there is a clear need to deepen understanding and shape a system that reflects best practices and perspectives on the ethics review of clinical trials involving the participation of Indigenous Peoples, while remaining within the scope of CanReview's purview.

### Statement of Work

CanReview is undertaking a time-limited, Indigenous-informed and Indigenous-conducted environmental scan and needs assessment to better understand how the ethics review of clinical trials involving Indigenous Peoples is currently governed and conducted across Canada. The goal is to learn about current processes, examples of best practices, and perspectives on areas for improvement.

To undertake this project, CanReview is **seeking an Indigenous researcher or Knowledge Holder with experience and expertise in clinical trials and/or research ethics governance, to conduct a scoped environmental scan and needs assessment.**

This project is foundational for CanReview and is exploratory and informational in nature. It will provide an evidence-informed foundation to guide decisions that are aligned with CanReview's scope, capacity, and resources, while respecting Indigenous sovereignty and jurisdiction. Following completion, outcomes of this project will inform the establishment of a CanReview Indigenous Committee and the initial priorities of that committee.

## Objectives

- Identify existing Indigenous-specific ethics review structures, processes, and supports relevant to clinical trials in regions across Canada.
- Explore what is currently working well, existing gaps and tensions, and how those tensions are being navigated in practice.
- Offer considerations that are within CanReview's scope to support respectful, rights-based engagement with Indigenous research governance.
- Generate insights to inform establishing a CanReview Indigenous Committee and its initial priority areas.

## Environmental Scan and Needs Assessment

The cross-Canada scan will focus on clinical trials and associated research ethics review processes of Canadian clinical trials, and will include, but not be limited to:

- Existing Indigenous research ethics governance structures, policies, protocols and mechanisms (for example Indigenous REBs, review committees, community approval processes, informed consent, etc.).
- Relevant policies, protocols, and frameworks related to Indigenous data sovereignty, including OCAP® and distinctions-based approaches, and examples of how these are being employed in practice with respect to research ethics review.
- Interviews to learn about and from experiences with centralized or multi-site ethics review models, and perceptions on alignment, gaps and tensions, where applicable.
- Perceived points of alignment, tension, or risk between national ethics review systems and Indigenous research governance and sovereignty.
- Examples of practical approaches that have supported respectful engagement within institutional or system constraints.

## Key Activities

- Conduct a national environmental scan and qualitative needs assessment that engages REBs and Indigenous research community members across Canada (via surveys, interviews, meetings, etc.)
- Synthesize findings with attention to distinctions-based perspectives (First Nations, Inuit, Métis).
- Identify a short list of considerations and questions to guide CanReview's next steps, including forming a CanReview Indigenous Committee and informing the Committee's initial priority areas.

## Key Outputs

- Environmental Scan Report
- Needs Assessment Summary
- Considerations Paper outlining:
  - Best practices and examples of success across Canada that align with CanReview's mandate
  - Identified constraints, tensions and boundaries
  - Considerations, recommendations and questions to inform the establishment of the future governance committee and its priorities, including suggestions for an outreach plan to identify and invite membership
- Presentation to team

## Additional Details

CanReview is a not-for-profit collaborative research initiative, governed by a cross-country leadership team and external advisory committee.

**Budget:** This project is supported via a grant from the Ontario SPOR Support Unit and has a budget of up to \$20,000

**Timeline:** This time-limited project will complete deliverables by June 1, 2026

**Oversight:** This project will be supported by the CanReview Project Manager with input from the CanReview communications lead and oversight from the Nominated Principal Applicant. The final project will inform future directions and considerations for CanReview.

## Submission

We invite quotes from Indigenous researchers and/or Knowledge Holders that include information about the candidate/team (e.g. experience and expertise), a breakdown of the approach and timelines to complete the project, budget outline/considerations and any other relevant information.

To submit a quote for this project, please submit to [info@canreview.ca](mailto:info@canreview.ca). For any questions before submitting, please share any questions to the above email.

Quote due date: March 27, 2026

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Learn more about CanReview at [www.canreview.ca](http://www.canreview.ca) and follow us on [social media](#).