

Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans	<i>Policy Sponsor:</i> Senate	<i>Approval Date:</i> May 12, 2008
	<i>Responsible Unit:</i> Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation	<i>Amendments:</i> May 14, 2012 April 8, 2024

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

A. Purpose & Background:

Dalhousie University is committed to promoting the responsible conduct of research involving humans and communities that values human dignity through the application of the ethical principles of respect for persons, concern for welfare, and justice.

The purpose of this policy is to support the conduct of ethical and respectful research, by:

1. Ensuring that all individuals conducting research involving humans under the University's auspices or jurisdiction are doing so with appropriate ethical oversight by a research ethics board and consistent with the principles and guidance of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*;
2. Establishing an independent ethics review structure;
3. Describing the mandate, authority and responsibilities of researchers, the research ethics boards, and the University in ensuring that research involving humans is ethically acceptable.

As a signatory to *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions*

with the University *Policy on Policies* (2017) and to incorporate University and Tri-Agency policies and statements regarding research involving Indigenous people and other distinct communities.

B. Application:

This policy applies to all research involving humans conducted by researchers and/or using resources that are under the University's auspices or jurisdiction, meeting either of the following criteria:

1. is research conducted by members of the University, or those employed by members of the University, acting in their university capacity. Members of the University include: faculty (full-time, part-time or emeritus), staff, students, medical residents, fellows, research associates, visiting or adjunct scholars, or any others associated with research at the University;
2. is research conducted using University resources that are not generally available to the public, including but not limited to facilities, human data, and human biological materials (including data or biologicals that are in the custody of the University or members of the University).

C. Definitions:

Definitions of terms are provided in Appendix A of this Policy. When terms are defined in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, they are not duplicated here.

D.

3.

research.

research ethics office.

4.4 University Administration

- a. Vice President Research and Innovation (or delegate): The Vice President Research and Innovation is responsible for oversight of the research ethics review system for research involving humans. This includes the allocation of financial and administrative resources to support the ethics review process, and ensuring the adequate number, qualifications, expertise and education of research ethics boards, members, and staff. The Vice President Research and Innovation is responsible for the appointment of research ethics board members and chairs.
- b. Academic administrators: deans, directors, department chairs, department heads and program heads are responsible for promoting a climate for ethical conduct of research involving humans and for ensuring researchers are aware of, and compliant with, this policy and the requirement for research ethics board oversight. Where students are engaged in research, this responsibility extends to ensuring that students are adequately

