LCAC Modern Treaty Implementation Research Fiscal Relations Theme Overview

Strengthening Our Shared Future

Co-Leads: Frances Abele, Matt Mehaffey,

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Project Overview

Modern Treaties Implementation Research:

Strengthening Our Shared Future

There are problems with Modern Treaty implementation. The impacts of these problems are significant and wide-ranging for Indigenous governments and Indigenous communities.

Since 2014, the LCAC Research Group has worked to determine an approach to gathering evidence that will assist policy makers in improving Modern Treaty implementation. During a conference in Ottawa in 2015, representatives of LCAC members; federal, territorial and provincial governments; and academics gathered to identify needs for implementation research. Five theme areas were identified: financing, law, intergovernmental relations, lands, and wellbeing.

This national, five-year, $2.5M project will fund high-quality scholarly research examining how Treaties are implemented in Canada. The project is guided by academics and Indigenous governments, who share co-leadership of research themes.

Carleton University is the academic host organization for the project. Dr. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox is the Principal Investigator and Project Director.

ABOUT THE CO-LEADS

- Frances Abele is Chancellor's Professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University. She has worked with Indigenous people in many parts of Canada, but began her education in Denendeh.
- Matt Mehaffey is the President of Mehaffey Consulting. Raised in Mayo, Yukon, one of the first self-governing Indigenous communities in Canada, he has worked as a fiscal and tax negotiator for 15 years representing Indigenous governments in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and British Columbia.

THEME OVERVIEW

Our theme analyzes how treaty implementation is financed, including financing agreements, taxation agreements, own source revenues, and resource royalties through Indigenous lenses.

We will assess the role of fiscal arrangements in facilitating the sharing of wealth and the place of Indigenous Government in the Federal Fiscal Framework.

We will critically examine efforts to harmonize arrangements, Canada's fiscal policies, and governments' institutional approaches and capacity to engage with Indigenous governments with respect to financing and fiscal relationships.

SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do federal approaches to financing affect treaty implementation and the exercise of recognized Indigenous jurisdictions?
- Where do Indigenous fiscal arrangements fit in the Canadian fiscal federation?
- What are the benefits/drawbacks of short-term ongoing fiscal negotiations on a treaty by treaty basis versus more formalized and streamlined wealth sharing mechanism?
- What are effective mechanisms for cost sharing that facilitate treaty implementation and decolonization?
- What are the policy, program delivery and institutional impacts of specific elements of finance, such as Own Source Revenue, and financing formulas and policies?
- **Based upon all of this, what improvements should be made?**

PARTICIPATION OF LCAC MEMBERS?

- LCAC Members who have research questions related to this theme in their implementation work can expect to:
  - Contact a Co-Lead to discuss your research interest;
  - Develop a research proposal to describe your project and how it relates to Treaty implementation;
  - Describe in-kind support that your organization could provide;
  - Describe what resources would be needed to undertake the project;
  - Be willing to work with an academic, students and possibly a community based researcher ;
  - Be willing to apply for additional funding from other sources;
  - Be willing to share all or some results of the project publicly, including participating in workshops or conferences.

PARTICIPATION OF ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS?

- Academics and students interested in researching questions in this theme can expect to:
  - Contact a Co-Lead to discuss the question and project and/or respond to a call for proposals or studentships;
  - Develop a research proposal and how it relates to Treaty implementation;
  - Describe resources needed to undertake the project;
  - Must work with a community or Indigenous organization and a community based researcher;
  - Be willing to adjust research questions to meaningfully address priorities of the community or organization partner, and develop a research proposal in partnership with the community/organization;
  - Be willing to apply for additional funding from other sources;
  - Be willing to share all or some results of the project publicly, including participating in workshops or conferences;
  - Ensure Indigenous community research protocols are followed and the project is governed by a research agreement with the partner organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE LAND CLAIM AGREEMENT COALITION (LCAC)

MODERN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECT

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