Breakout 3D: $2.5M Modern Treaty Research Grant: Priorities

Wednesday November 15, 2017 10:45AM – 12:15PM

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox (Chair), Hayden King, Jessica Orkin, Matin Papillion/Edward Allan/ Bobby Clark, Thierry Rodon/Andrew Dunford, Matt Mehaffey/Fraces Abele.

The purpose of the session is to give an overview of the grant and to get feedback on identified priorities. They want to get the word out about funding research in Indigenous communities and for Indigenous students.

They want to research how to do implementation right and came up with the structure of the grant today:

- Partnership grant of $2.5M over 5 years.
- There are 5 themes based on what people told us.
- Themes are not comprehensive, but there is potential to renew them and collaboration is welcome.
- The themes relate to financing, law, intergovernmental relations and multi-level governance, evaluation and socio-economic issues, and land relationships.

About half of the funding will go to students (Indigenous and non-Indigenous). They are hoping to create a new generation of researchers, academics and public servants. They want to explore the perspectives of Indigenous governments and the challenges that are faced from the Indigenous side of modern treaty implementation.

The grant steering committee is composed of the team leads for each theme. Each theme has two leads, one is an academic and one is a practitioner. They control how they want their theme to be developed. Already discussing overlaps and how to handle them and have themes work together.

They are currently talking to Indigenous governments to see who wants to host the national hub and oversee administration.

Co-leads from Indigenous governments can sign on partners at any time but are restricted to funding LCAC members who want research, and partners need to be open to working with an academic (of their choice). There are requirements for researchers and communities, such as student training and that the research should employ as many community members as possible. They want to conduct research in reconciliatory way and be respectful of community protocols.

Fundamentally, modern treaties are about the land. The goal is to strengthen relation to the land and assert jurisdiction for future generations.

There is ongoing tension around the scope of Indigenous jurisdiction over lands and resources which can end in conflict on the land or in court. They are asking is modern treaties are

strengthening the relationships with the land, or are they weakening the relationship by continuing to dispossess Indigenous Peoples from the land through implementation.

There is descriptive and explanatory research. They want to get a good sense of new institutional arrangements with federal/provincial/territorial/Indigenous bodies and how they compare.

Also want to explore how money moves because it is what makes government and self-government possible. Since it is essential to realizing self-determination, if financing is not done properly, it will undercut self-determination.

Questions:
Q: What are the outputs? Students, publishing etc.
A: The funding is tied to some outputs. They want to see researchers and publications.

- They can fund up to sixty students over five years
- Publications: about two academic edited volumes, three or four special issues, five to ten conference presentations.
- They have made it a requirement to have the presentations done with community members present.
- Hoping to have workshops in communities and at universities.

Q: What kind of funding are you providing to students?
A: Yearly stipend which are set by SSHRC.

Q: Would you consider policy briefs as an output?
A: Have thought about it... Indigenous governments need formats in things that they can use. These can be incorporated into the process.

Q: How does the knowledge remain in communities when that relationship is gone or the funding is gone? Want to ensure sustainability.
A: Hopefully another iteration of this funding after five years.

Q: Had you thought about community mentors or opportunities to have community leaders be a part of projects?
A: Can't do everything but if someone has a project with that component, can go out and get more funding. Would encourage that approach, but depends on what the community wants to do.

Q: Is there a formula for budget for communities applying to the grant project?
A: There was a meeting after this of the grant steering committee, and this still needed to be worked out. They want to make it as transparent as possible and want to have the criteria that projects will be measured by.