



UAKN

Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

rcdu

Reseau du Connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu Urbain

Aboriginal Circle

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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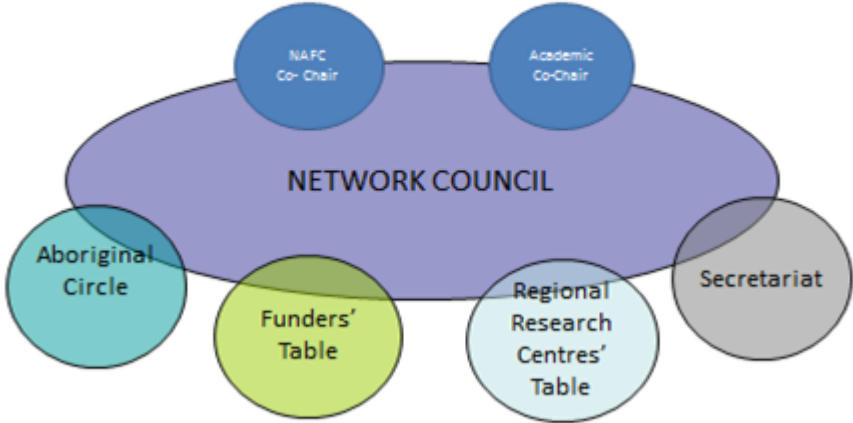
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Name

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network’s (UAKN) Aboriginal Circle, herein referred to as the Aboriginal Circle.

Purpose



The Aboriginal

Circle will provide guidance to the UAKN Network Council regarding cultural perspectives on national level research projects and other national initiatives. The Aboriginal Circle also provides guidance in matters of ethical and cultural relevancy with respect to the research processes instituted by the UAKN. The Aboriginal Circle was established in conjunction with the three other components of the Network Council (i.e. Funders’ Table, Secretariat and Regional Research Centres) in early governance development.

Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights

A key principle of community-driven research is recognizing communities and Indigenous people as experts in the research process. The ownership and intellectual property rights lie with the communities and/or individuals who inform and contribute to the research and authorship must reflect this. All UAKN research must meet this requirement prior to funding approval.

Introduction

The Aboriginal Circle will ensure research is relevant to urban Aboriginal community interests; advise on priority urban Aboriginal community issues; and, give national level direction to community driven research practices. It is also noteworthy that community driven research is the main focus of the UAKN, wherein research is performed in partnership between the community and other key partners (refer to the UAKN Guiding Ethical Principles for elaboration of research partnerships).

Aboriginal Circle Composition

Responsibilities

Persons asked to serve on the Aboriginal Circle will be leaders in their respective fields, and respected in their communities. The Chair will be named by the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). The Aboriginal Circle will meet at the call of the Chair, a minimum of twice in each fiscal year (at least one meeting face to face and other meetings electronically). Fundamentally, the purpose of the Aboriginal Circle is to provide wisdom and guidance to ensure the UAKN operates in a culturally appropriate manner. The Aboriginal Circle members are responsible for communication with their respected regions.

Composition

The Aboriginal Circle members will be comprised of Aboriginal persons (Inuit, Métis and First Nation – status and non-status) inclusive of Elders and youth who have a strong interest and/or experience in Aboriginal community research as well as interest and/or knowledge of Aboriginal cultures and teachings. Should the Aboriginal Circle lack representation of a specific Aboriginal group, every effort will be taken to recruit new members; however, such vacancies will not impede the function of the Aboriginal Circle. .

The Aboriginal Circle membership will be drawn from the UAKN Regions: the West (B.C./A.B.), the Prairies (SK., MB.), Central (ON./QC.) and the Atlantic (N.S., P.E.I., NL, N.B.) Recruitment of members will be the responsibility of the Aboriginal Circle with Secretariat staff support.

Note: Alternative representatives may attend Aboriginal Circle meetings in lieu of official members.

The following criteria must be met by members of the Aboriginal Circle:

- a) Be of Aboriginal descent;
- b) Have Friendship Centre experience;
- c) Have relevant knowledge of issues faced by urban Aboriginal peoples;
- d) Have relevant experience and/or knowledge of community driven research; and,
- e) Have knowledge of Indigenous research methodologies and ethics.

From among the membership of the Aboriginal Circle, no more than four (4) persons at a time will be nominated to sit on the Network Council, on a rotating basis. The Aboriginal Circle representatives will attend and participate in the Network Council meetings as required.

Duration

There is no maximum term associated with serving as an Aboriginal Circle member as the position is voluntary. Any member who wishes to resign will inform the Chair in a timely manner.

Meetings

The Aboriginal Circle will meet at the call of the Chair, a minimum of twice in each fiscal year (meetings may also take place via tele/videoconference). Decisions of the Aboriginal Circle will be made through group effort and consensus (see “Decision Making and Accountability”).

Staff Support

The Secretariat Staff is responsible for all administrative functions required by the Aboriginal Circle.

Decision Making and Accountability

All matters will be introduced and a full discussion promoted. It will be the responsibility of the Chair to build consensus. Every effort will be made to achieve consensus. It is acknowledged that there will be times where it may be necessary for participants to trust the prevailing view and permit consensus to be identified. Where a meeting participant is unable to support consensus, their concerns will be documented and forwarded to the appropriate party.

For these purposes we understand the levels of consensus to include:

1. There needs to be more information or discussion on the issue;
2. I fundamentally disagree and require a new proposal to be established.
3. I am not enthusiastic about the decision, but I can accept it
4. I think this is the best choice of the options available to us
5. I enthusiastically support this.

The Aboriginal Circle will also publicize and post all meeting minutes, annual reports, communiques etc. on the UAKN website once these documents have been approved and finalized.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the Aboriginal Circle.

URBAN ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

**ABORIGINAL CIRCLE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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