An Example of Community Partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario and a University Research Team

University of Guelph*, Métis Nation of Ontario, Wilfrid Laurier University**

A group of researchers and representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Health Branch collaborated on a research project over the course of two years. This partnership has been rewarding and challenging, and through our work together both groups have benefitted in a number of ways. Some of the value that has come out of this collaboration has been the ability of the joint research team to generate Métis-specific information and to disseminate research results to the Métis population. Other benefits include more focused and appropriate research questions reflecting Métis considerations, and skill development for both groups. This research partnership is based upon knowledge transfer principles that ensure study findings are disseminated to academic and lay audiences. This collaboration is a strong example of how community research can go right. In order to best work together, we had to overcome a number of obstacles and adapt to new roles and timelines. This poster describes our collaboration process, some of the challenges we faced and how we overcame them.

Meet the Research Teams

University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University Family Gambling Team (Uni Team)

In the third year of a three-year project, this team of researchers was interested in studying gambling behaviour and family recreational life in a minority ethnicity sample.

Goals:
• To learn about the gambling behaviour and family recreational life of a minority group in Ontario.
• To collect survey data and compare with survey data already collected.
• To produce publications and a Masters thesis.

To participate in Community Engaged Scholarship for this phase of the project.

Principal Investigators: Joseph Tindale, Ph.D., Joan Norris, Ph.D.

Team members: Éric Thériault, M.Sc., Liz Harrison

Gambling Team

Members from each group formed a joint research team. Mario was the main representative from the MNO. Joe, Joan, Keehan and Éric were from the Uni team.

Collaboration Process Timeline

This timeline explains the process we went through to get to where we are now. It illustrates how much time it takes to share ideas among team members living in different cities (Uni team in Waterloo and Guelph; MNO Research team in Toronto and Ottawa). Most communication took place by email, but we also communicated in person and over the phone.

Challenges Flowchart

The Cycle(s) of Revisions

The process of revising a proposal or manuscript can be time-consuming, especially when it involves multiple reviewers and interests. This chart illustrates the cyclical nature of revising a research survey for approval from the respective teams and from the Ethics committees. It is important that the combined research team approves the changes before it goes to the Ethics committee.