



Vancouver Campus

Responsible Office	Office of Academic Affairs	Effective Date	September 5, 2025
Responsible Official	Associate Provost	Last Revision	September 5, 2025

Policy for the Protection of Indigenous Knowledge (Protection and Respectful Use of Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Property, and Wisdom) **Fairleigh Dickinson University Vancouver (FDUV)**

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory:

FDU Vancouver Campus (FDUV) acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̪əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Purpose:

FDUV recognizes and supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Article 31.1, states:

“Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their Intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.”

This policy establishes the framework and overarching principle for the protection and respectful use of Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, and wisdom. The policy ensures that all research and curriculum development is preceded by awareness of the context of FDU Vancouver Campus as an institution on unceded territory and accountability to the communities among whom it exists.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all activities at FDUV involving the inclusion, use, or representation of Indigenous knowledge in curriculum, research and scholarly work.

Policy

Notwithstanding any other FDUV policies, the following shall apply:

1. Curriculum

- a) Where Indigenous knowledge is part of curriculum, curriculum designers shall ensure that appropriate permissions or recognition are in place in the development and/or use of education resources, and that they are specific and co-developed with communities where this is appropriate.
- b) FDUV shall ensure that Indigenous curriculum and resources are accessible to community members and local education programs. FDUV shall ensure the way communities access curriculum and resources are co-developed and based on community needs.
- c) Curriculum and Instruction on research methods shall use understanding of Indigenous methodologies and collaborative approaches to teach researchers how to avoid unintended cultural appropriation.

2. Research and Scholarly Work

- a) Where Indigenous knowledge or content is accessed or included as part of scholarly activities, researchers are responsible for adopting ethical Indigenous research methods and approaches. For example, Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research involving First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in Canada (Chapter 9).
- b) Where Indigenous knowledge or content is accessed or included as part of scholarly activities, researchers shall use culturally appropriate, respectful methods that are specific to the project and community and that are led by collaborative practice and partnerships between communities and institutions.
- c) Where Indigenous knowledge or content is accessed or included as part of scholarly activities, researchers are responsible for developing agreements, protocols, and practices for the protection and respectful use of Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, and wisdom through citation and doing so with the Indigenous peoples from whom the content originates where this is appropriate.
- d) Where Indigenous knowledge or content is accessed or included as part of scholarly activities, researchers are responsible for:

- Engaging with Indigenous data collection processes and respecting community protocols
- Where possible, collaborating with Indigenous partners in the design, conduct, and interpretation of the research
- Upholding the principles of ownership, control, access and protection in all aspects of data stewardship
- Ensuring Indigenous methodologies and perspectives are appropriately integrated and acknowledged
- Researchers are expected, whenever possible, to use Indigenous primary and secondary sources

e) Where Indigenous knowledge or content is accessed or included as part of FDUV scholarly activities, the FDU Research Ethics Board, or equivalent, wherever possible shall have Indigenous community representation.