

Tribal Nations Research Group

A 501c3 Non-Profit Organization

News letter February , 2015
Volume 1, Issue 1



Mission & Purpose

Mission of Tribal Nations Research Group

To improve the quality of life for all Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) tribal members through culturally-competent, custom-fit research.

Purpose

Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) was created for the promotion of high quality research relevant to the TMBCI. TNRG is providing research education materials designed to inform the community about research and the research a process in accordance with the laws and rules that have been adopted by the TMBCI. Good quality research will provide custom fit data and data ownership. It will facilitate opportunities for public and private economic development, it will promote the general welfare of all tribal members resulting in a positive image for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Objectives

- **Research Inventory:** Catalog an inventory of past and current research projects and publications within TMBCI.
- **Data Repository:** Establish the policies and procedures related to creating and maintaining a centralized data repository.
- **Data Management:** Establish the policies and procedures related to the use of data available in the data repository for the TMBCI. This includes the development of policies regarding data from research studies, return of the data, format of the data, and policies for release of ongoing and completed research studies.
- **Community Health/Research Priorities:**
 - Coordinate and manage Community Advisory Board/Working Group that will be comprised of community leaders, parents, elders and healthcare providers.
 - Meet with various community members, tribal departments, IHS staff, and others to determine the major health disparities of the TMBCI community.
- **Research Facilitation:** To assist in the facilitation of grants and other research projects; Research Review Board: Maintain and conduct day-to-day operations of research review board/IRB activities to create a strong Tribal research system and provide an efficient process.
- **Raise Awareness:** RRB Presentation to raise awareness and provide education to TMBCI community leaders and members.
- **Community Needs Survey:** TNRG will develop, conduct, and analyze a survey that will be used to establish needed services with the TM housing sites.
- **Establishing Baseline Data for TMBCI:** TNRG will collect data to establish a base-line data source for the TMBCI.



Pictured above:

TMBCI Chairman
"Richard McCloud"
&
TNRG
Anita Frederick

Approval of the
Turtle Mountain Band of
Chippewa Indians
Research Protection Act

July 31, 2014

Community Based Participatory Research
Is a partnership approach to **research** that equitably involves, for example, **community** members, organizational representatives, and **researchers are involved** in all aspects of the **research** process and in which all partners contribute expertise and share decision making and ownership.

Research Protection Act

To help the Tribal Nations Research Group carry out its functions, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribal government passed the TMBCI Research Protection Act thereby empowering the tribe to exercise its inherent sovereign authority that all research including human subject research conducted within the Tribe's Territory and involving the Tribe's members has the potential to cause harm and should therefore be strictly regulated. Following two opportunities for public comment the research protection act was signed into law by TMBCI resolution on July 31, 2014. As outlined in the protection act, all research conducted on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation and TMBCI tribal lands are required to adhere act. The purposes of the act is to:

- protect the people, culture, and natural resources of the Tribe and the Tribe's future generations from unauthorized scientific research;
- to reduce any adverse effects of human subject research and related activities on the Tribe and its People;
- to ensure that researchers recognize the Tribe's control of research activities and ownership of all data and information generated or produced by such research; and
- to establish and provide a statutory basis for a process to review and govern any research, collection, database, or publication undertaken on the reservation.



Meeting with American Public Health Resource Center

Dr. Donald Warne, MD, MPH
Director, Master of Public Health Program, NDSU
&
Melissa Olson,
Money Follows the Person
Project Manager

The Seven Teachings of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa serve as the overlying guiding principles for the RRB.

Research Review Board

The TMBCI Research Protection Act also created a Research Review Board, commonly known to the research community as a RRB. The research review board is composed of five tribal members. The research protection act empowered the RRB with the following duties and responsibilities:

- to examine and comment on all proposals for research to be conducted within the Reservation or involving Members of the Tribe, and to monitor and regulate such research;
- to promulgate rules under which the RRB shall operate subject to the laws of the Tribe.
- to coordinate and insure that the interests of affected Tribal programs, departments, and members are protected.
- to inform the Tribal Council regarding RRB actions.
- to coordinate and interact with the researcher (s) in order to ensure the Tribe's control of the research process, and the Tribe's ownership of data and information generated by such research.
- to negotiate the terms and conditions of a research agreement.

Discussion of Research Protection Act



Chairman McCloud

Carla Wilkie,
TMBCI Recorder

Anita Frederick
TNRG

TMBCI Current Research Projects

Current research projects taking place on/or near Turtle Mountain

School Connectedness and Academic Achievement of American Indian

Project PI/Co Pi: Dr. Andrea, Laverdure Ed. D. & Dr. Teresa LaFromboise, Ph. D.

School connectedness and academic achievement of AI High School Students. The purpose of this study is to analyze associations between school connectedness, academic achievement and academic engagement among AI High School students.

Information and Communication Technology Utilization among American Indians as a Method of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prevention Education

Project PI/Co PI: Dr. Todd M. Sabato, Ph.D., & Cole Allick, Undergraduate Student UND

Information and communication technology utilization among AI as a method of HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention education. A online survey delivered to 18-24 year old college students attending TMCC during fall 2014 academic term.

Exploring the History of Public Discourse on Self Determination as a Value and Belief of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Project PI: Teri Martin-Parisien, Ph.D. Candidate UND

Using tribal critical race theory as the theoretical framework and methodology, the values and beliefs of the tribe from the early to mid-1900's will be compared with the values and beliefs of the tribe in the present date to explore any changes, particularly as it relates to self-determination.

ND Smoke-Free Casinos Project-Collaboration with five ND-Tribes and ND Department of Health

Project PI/Co PI: Stephanie Jay and Jackie Giron, TMBCI Tobacco Prevention Programs

North Dakota Smoke Free Casinos Project. Partnership between Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the North Dakota Department of Health. Survey of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribal member casino patrons, casino employees, and tribal members.

Discussion of Research Protection Act



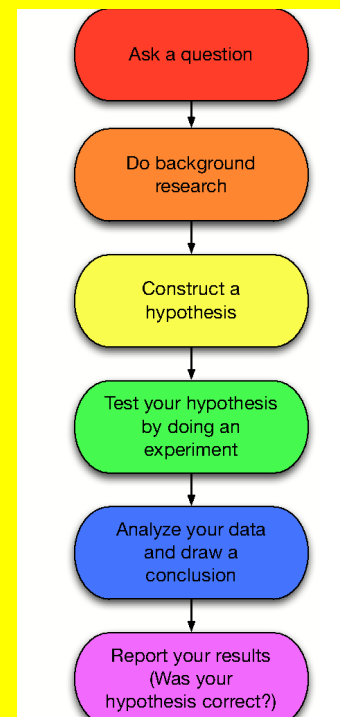
Pictured

Elmer Davis, JR
Dist. 3 Councilman

&

Dr. Gerald "Carty" Monette
TNRG Board of Directors

Research Process



Tribal Members Partner with Researchers to Enhance Health Disparities Research in the Northern Plains

Excerpts from an article printed by the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities



Meeting with Tribal Council

Pictured:

Harvey LaRocque
Research Liaison

Dr. Paula Morin-Carter
TNRG-Board of Directors

Dr. Carol Davis
TNRG-Board of Directors

The Tribal Nations Research Group and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, with support from the Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH)-Sanford Health, are working together to develop a model Tribal research infrastructure that will serve as a mechanism to improve relations between the Tribe and scientist/researchers. This Tribal research infrastructure will promote collaboration that consists of mutual respect, equity, and empowerment; and will identify benefits and risks to the Tribal community.

“Community members were being taken advantage of by researchers who did not communicate back results and were citing data in studies without their knowledge,” said Anita Frederick, executive director of TNRG. “Our main goal is to establish laws for our community and a Tribal institutional review board so we know what research is coming in and being conducted about our Tribal members.”

The collaboration between the three organizations aims to expand the research capacity in the Northern Plains area. To serve the 30,722 enrolled members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and more than 16,500 living on or adjacent to the reservation, TNRG was created through resolution by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The nonprofit organization has a mission to improve the quality of life for all Tribal members through culturally congruent, custom-fit research.

In further efforts to enhance research on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation and address health concerns such as obesity, cancer, and diabetes, TNRG is developing a Tribal data repository, a “master database” to serve as a resource for community members and researchers. TNRG has begun cataloging past research projects to establish what data exist and what gaps need to be filled, said Frederick. They will conduct a community-wide survey to assess health, economic, housing, environmental, transportation, and other conditions in the community.

“We still have a lot of social issues on the reservation, and we need to figure out how to break the cycle of poverty,” said Dr. Carol Davis, a founding member and senior associate of TNRG. “We are using the research information being gathered to start asking the questions that will help us become a better tribe of citizens and make this a better place for seven generations to come.

Referenced From:

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. *Tribal Members Partner with Researchers to Enhance Health Disparities Research in the Northern Plains*. N NA 2015. News and Events. 30 January 2015.

Partnerships

The following partnerships have contributed to make the Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) a success:

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian (TMBCI) Reservation is located on a six mile by twelve-mile land base and is considered one of the most densely populated Reservations, per square mile, in the United States. If the Turtle Mountain Reservation was listed as a city, it would be the 5th largest city in North Dakota. The Reservation is near the geographical center of North America in north central North Dakota, ten miles south of the Canadian Border. The hub city on the reservation is Belcourt, ND and is situated in Rolette County. The surrounding communities where tribal members also live include: Dunseith, St John, Rolette, and Rolla.

Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH)

CRCAIH, formed in September 2012, creates a communication and infrastructure platform that brings together Tribal communities and health researchers from multiple disciplines to work in the development of cutting-edge transdisciplinary research that will address the significant health disparities experienced by American Indians in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. CRCAIH mentors Tribes in all aspects of research and provides technical assistance so that Tribes, like the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, can develop and conduct future research on their own.

Pathways to Prosperity

The mission of the Pathways Organization is to work together with all interested parties to reduce poverty within the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. We will strive to build upon the inherent strengths of individuals and of our community as a whole, to improve the sense of inclusion, economic strength, community infrastructure, educational attainment, health status and cultural assets of our people, to prepare our people to thrive in a diverse, multicultural society.

American Indian Public Health Resource Center

The purpose of the center is to address the health disparities of American Indian population in North Dakota and the surrounding region through technical assistance, policy development, self-determination feasibility analyses, education, research, and programing in partnership with tribes primarily in North Dakota, the Northern Plains region and nationally.





-Anita Frederick,
CEO/Executive Director, Senior Associate
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian

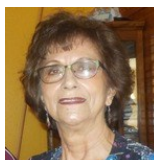


-Harvey LaRocque,
TMBCI Research Liaison
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Board Members



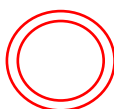
-Dr. Gerald "Carty" Monette, Senior Associate
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians



-Dr. Carol Davis, Senior Associate
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians



-Dr. Paula Morin-Carter, Senior Associate
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

A 501c3 Non-Profit
Organization
P.O. Box 1906
Belcourt, ND 58316

Phone: 701-477-5526

Website:

[http://www.tribalnationsresearchgroup.org/
mission.html](http://www.tribalnationsresearchgroup.org/mission.html)

Like us on Facebook