



COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

OPERATIONAL POLICY

TOPIC: RESEARCH ETHICS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS

Policy No.	AC-113	Division	Academics
Supersedes	N/A	Board Policy Ref.	N/A
Related Procedure	AC-113-PR	Effective Date:	December 22, 2008 (R1)

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the appropriate safeguards, guidelines and ethical considerations governing research involving human subjects.

All research projects approved by the Office of Applied Research involving human participants undertaken by members of the College community - including faculty, staff and learners, - shall be covered by this policy, irrespective of the source of financial support (if any) and irrespective of the location of the project, in the latter case, so long as the investigator represents the work as College research.

Projects conducted by researchers from outside the College community who access College resources (either equipment or personnel), will also fall within the jurisdiction of this policy.

2. DEFINITIONS

College: College of the North Atlantic

College resource: Any device, infrastructure, information, human resource, or funding that is normally used by the College in the exercise of its activities. These resources include those wholly owned by the College and those given or loaned to the College by a third party for use in normal College operation. The use of such donated or loaned resources may have restrictions or conditions placed on them (especially if they were given for the express purpose of

research). This document does not supersede or override those restrictions or conditions.

TCPS: Tri-Council Policy Statement. The complete version of this document available at:

<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/policystatement/policystatement.cfm>. All researchers are expected to read and understand this document.

OAR: Office of Applied Research of the College.

3. POLICY

All research shall be carried out in accordance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Integrity in Research and Scholarship, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and Requirements for Certain Types of Research (Appendix Four of the NSERC Researcher's Guide). In the case of any conflict between policy and procedures established by the College and those established under the above-mentioned documents, the latter would prevail.

Researchers engaged in research involving human subjects have the professional responsibility to adhere to the ethical norms and codes of conduct appropriate to their respective disciplines.

Norms for the ethics of research involving human subjects are developed and refined within an ever-evolving societal context. Elements of research comprise of the research community, moral imperatives, ethical principles, and the law. Research at the College must demonstrate that prescribed methods only will be used to protect the rights and interests of the subjects in the conduct of research.

In accordance with TCPS, the guiding ethical principles of this policy include:

- Respect for Human Dignity;
- Respect for Free and Informed Consent;
- Respect for Vulnerable Persons;
- Respect for Privacy and Confidentiality;
- Respect for Justice and Inclusiveness;
- Balancing Harms and Benefits;
- Minimizing Harm;
- Maximizing Benefits.

Research involving human subjects is premised on a fundamental commitment to advancing human welfare, knowledge and understanding, and to examining cultural dynamics. An ethics of research involving human subjects should include two essential components:

1. The selection and achievement of acceptable ends; and
2. The acceptable means to those ends.

The first component is directed at defining acceptable ends in terms of the benefits of research for subjects, for associated groups, and for the advancement of knowledge. The second component is directed at ethically appropriate means of conducting research.

The College does not allow research involving animal subjects.

4. PROCEDURE

The Vice-President, Academic and Learner Services, with guidance and advice from the OAR where necessary, shall ensure that procedures are developed and implemented in accordance with this policy.

Approval History	
Approved by President	May 13, 2008
Revision 1	December 22, 2008
Next Review	December 2011