

OPEN SPACE SESSION: Idea Development

Based on the results of the *Open Space: Research Ideas* session, groups coalescing around specific research priorities met to further develop and conceptualize research, and began to identify possible partnerships and commitments. Groups were asked to respond to the questions below.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the objectives of this proposed research?
- Who will benefit from it?
- What resources do we have that we could bring to this research? (e.g. elders, staff time/support, academics knowledge, money, topic experts etc.)
- What resources do we need?
- Who will be part of the core group to help develop this?
- Who will be the contact person(s) for this topic area moving forward?
- What are our initial next steps?
- What is the timeline for moving this forward?

*Note: the italicized portions indicate the areas of common interest that were identified in the *Research Ideas* session. What follows under each italicized section is the development of ideas within each sub-group.

- **Financial:**
- *Fiscal relations*
- *Comparability*
- *Impacts of modern treaties on GDP?*
- *Financial implications of non-implementation*

- What's working – framework.
- Comparability – one size fits all is not effective.
- What is the measurement to provide services to gauge expenditure requirements.
- Methodology that would lead you to answer for funding requirements.
- Shift of financial burden of provision of services.
- “What is the savings to Government in Investment in Social Programs”? Ie – Alaska, homelessness.
- Impact of Modern treaties on GDP. IE – CD Howe: “Effect of First Nations Modern Treaties on Local Income”.
- What are the Cost/Benefits of self-government?
- Track baseline data. Ie – Health indicators.
- What data to collect.
- Failed system, no data to support why it's not working. Ie – social welfare and children aging out.
- Gap in sharing tax revenue.

- Cost to Government of non-compliance of treaties.
- Data – quantitative evidence in the communities' hands.
- Train youth to collect data. Empower for programs and services.
- Align research needs with a University.
- ***Intergovernmental Relations:***
 - *Barriers to implementation*
 - *History of implementation within all levels of Government*
 - *What hasn't been implemented and why?*
 - *How land claims agreements decisions affect government processes*
 - *Balance between binding agreements and flexibility for implementing*
 - *Implementation policies*
- Objective:
 - Improve intergovernmental relations.
 - Implement with no barriers.
 - Develop and improve an effective implementation policy.
 - Cabinet Directive to implementation.
 - Review and evaluate what processes and policies are. Comparative study between treaties.
- Benefit:
 - Everyone.
 - Land claims organizations.
 - Institutions.
 - Government.
- What resources do we have that we could bring to this research?
 - Traditional knowledge.
 - Original negotiations.
 - Minutes from original tables.
 - Keeping track of disputes – dispute logs.
 - Transcripts coming from communities/individuals.
 - Impact assessment hearings.
- Resources (needed):
 - Funding.
 - Commitment.
 - Best practices for transparency on government.
 - See the process.
 - Decision making records.
 - Databases to guide the research.
 - What makes relationships work? Have that dialogue.
 - Understand the importance of the research.
- Who would be part of the core group?
 - Government – steering committee – pro-active.
 - Academics – involve our politicians – buy in to be committed.
 - Land Claims groups.

- LCAC – subject matter experts.
- Next Steps:
 - Narrow the focus – on implementation areas.
 - Interview stakeholders.
 - Use our LCAC to facilitate next steps.
 - Bridge the gaps.
 - Educate people on the topic of treaties!
- **Utilizing research:**
 - *Knowledge transfer*
 - *Connection between government and research*
- Note – No participants congregated around this issue.
- **Evaluation:**
 - *Objectives/measuring success*
 - *Baseline research*
 - *Comparative criteria*
 - *Modern treaty outcomes*
 - *Language regarding reviews and agreements*
- What has not been implemented and why?
- Evaluation at grassroots level – asking citizens.
- Taxes – Federal, Provincial/Territorial, First Nation/Aboriginal.
- How do we empower citizens in the communities?
- Need for process evaluation – help groups who haven't signed. Successes/failures.
- What are the landmarks – where are we measuring to and from?
- Indicators for success:
 - What are the outcomes?
 - On a community-level.
 - Overarching themes.
 - Compare what has been achieved versus what was negotiated.
 - What do treaties provide for?
- Each group has unique circumstances, culture and each agreement is unique.
- Benefit?:
 - All citizens – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.
 - LCAC members.
- Resources:
 - Federal level – requirements to conduct evaluation every 5 years – joint approach.
 - Traditional knowledge.
- Information sharing – intergovernmental, between nations who have established modern treaties. Community owned data.
- Baseline data to be put into a framework to be used as a resource by all groups.

- Initial Steps:
- Determine broader objectives/themes.
- Funding/support.
- Partners – LCAC, academic institutions, Government.
- Start by establishing a working group with LCAC representatives; academic champions and representatives from Provincial/Territorial and Federal Governments.
- Need to identify priority areas?
- A partnership with research group on ‘Impacts’.

- ***Impacts of modern treaties:***
- *Quality of life*
- *Child welfare*
- *Do modern treaties make a difference*
- *Citizens perspectives as social well-being*
- *How do we measure successes/failures of modern treaties*
- *Impacts of modern treaties on GDP*

- Quality of Life:
- From citizen/community perspective.
- Issues of poverty, health – part of original goals of implementation.
- Cost of living in the North.
- Measuring self-determination.
- Access to resources and control of resources.
- Determine indicators of quality of life.
- Objectively identify how to use info on quality of life for policy.
- Determine how to access ‘quality of life’. Develop new evaluative tool based on Indigenous way of understanding. Sensitive common value of land and distinct factors.
- Impact treaty has had on the impact on quality of life.
- What are measurement criteria for ‘quality of life’?
- Creating a framework.

- Variables to Consider:
- Length of treaty existence. Length of settler society impacts.
- Unpredictable effects.
- Research that is sensitive to common values and distinct factors.
- Resources - existing resources from the communities and LCAC members.

- Objectives:
- Determine Indigenous indicators of quality of life.
- Identify information on quality of life for policy.
- Develop new evaluative tool based on Indigenous ways of understanding.
- Measuring self-determination.