

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	Indigenous Knowledge		
Policy #	B.17	Category	Governance and Organization
Approving Jurisdiction	Board of Governors	Replaces	1996-01-01
Administrative Responsibility	President (current)	Version	2023-02-14
		Next Review Date	to be determined

PURPOSE

This policy is a statement of commitment from Aurora College's leadership to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge consistently and broadly in its physical and intellectual spaces in order to create an ethical space where everyone can openly celebrate and practise their cultures while increasing their knowledge and expertise about Indigenous Nations in the North. It provides the framework and guidance for Aurora College to realize this commitment.

SCOPE AND LIMITS

This policy applies to all members of the Aurora College community and to all aspects of College space and activities. It is not possible to represent Indigenous Knowledge adequately within the confines of a policy; this policy is one of several documents and initiatives intended to guide Aurora College in its efforts to support Indigenous Knowledge and its practitioners.

POLICY STATEMENT

Guiding Principles

1. Honour the Lands, waters, animals, winds, spirits, and traditional practices that connect us to Indigenous Knowledge.
2. Recognize that Indigenous Knowledge is unique to each Indigenous group and it is not the same everywhere. It is rooted in community and culture, and varies according to time, place, people and heritage.
3. Maintaining and nurturing Indigenous Knowledge is important to a person's sense of self. Creating a bridge between Indigenous Knowledge and Western systems of education and knowledge so that students do not lose their sense of self is critical. Keeping their sense of

self and having self-esteem is important for Indigenous students to be successful in their educational experience.

4. On-the-Land activities are an essential component of maintaining, nurturing, and sharing Indigenous Knowledge.
5. Respect for others (peoples, cultures, beliefs, etc.) is the foundation of good relationships.
6. An inclusive college culture is one where everyone:
 - has a sense of belonging and feels safe to be themselves
 - feels they are valued, recognized, and can contribute fully
 - is treated fairly and respectfully
 - has equal access to opportunities and resources

General

7. Indigenous Knowledge is shared for an intended purpose and will be used only for that purpose and as agreed to by the Indigenous Knowledge Holder(s).
8. This Indigenous Knowledge policy and its related documents provide guidance for all Aurora College staff to develop relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities, and individuals.
9. Indigenous Knowledge research will be done ethically and collaboratively according to established best practices, including but not limited to College policy and chapter 9 of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (2018)*, "Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada."
10. Aurora College will foster and support a culturally safe environment where Indigenous Knowledge can be practised and thrive and Aurora College staff are committed to integrating cultural practices into the learning experience.
11. Aurora College will support Aurora College staff and students in growing their Indigenous Knowledge.
12. Leadership and staff will look for and develop opportunities for programming and collaboration with Indigenous governments, communities, and individuals on a regular basis.

DEFINITIONS

Indigenous Knowledge: In this policy, *Indigenous Knowledge* (IK) refers to a holistic system of knowledge that encompasses peoples' relationships with the land, their languages, cultures, ways of life, and traditional practices. IK varies according to time, place, people and socio-economic context.

Indigenous Knowledge Holders: Definition to be developed by the Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council.

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

I.04 Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Subjects Policy

Aurora College. (June 2022). *Best Practices for Indigenous Knowledge at Aurora College: A Foundational Document*.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, December 2018. [or updated version]

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Aurora College Act RSNWT 1988,c.A-7

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Update
1996-01-01	New policy <i>Traditional Knowledge</i> issued: May 1995 Revised: August 1995 Implemented: January 1, 1996 Policy and Planning Committee Motion PP#37-1995 Board of Governors Motion BG#78-1995
2023-02-14	Revised and renamed <i>Indigenous Knowledge</i> Approved by Administrator, Aurora College Ref.#-02-2023 Implemented: February 14, 2023