

# Improving Research Ethics Guidelines: Towards a 2nd Edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

**Presented by:**

Susan V. Zimmerman

Executive Director

Secretariat on Research Ethics

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**PANEL ON  
RESEARCH ETHICS**

*Navigating the ethics of human research*



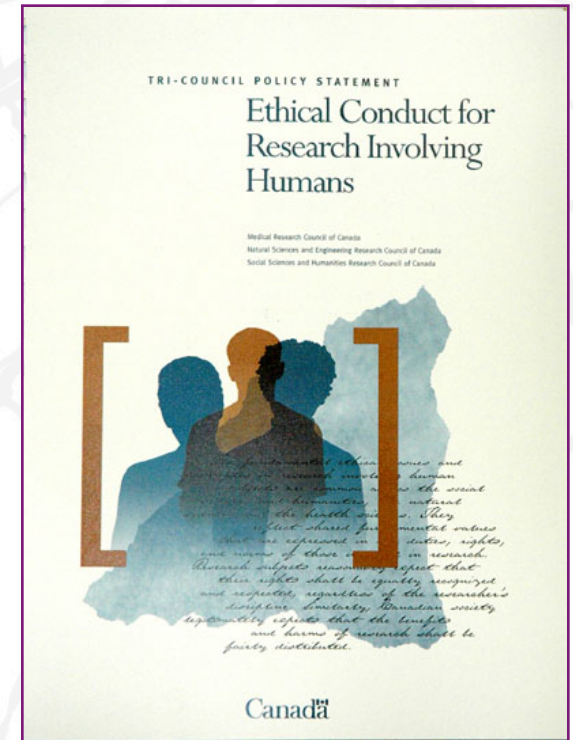
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# Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

- Released in 1998 by the three federal research funding agencies
  - CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC
- Panel created in 2001 to advise Agencies on the evolution, interpretation, implementation and educational needs of the TCPS
- 2nd edition currently in preparation



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## 5 C's and TCPS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

- **CLARITY** of criteria for research ethics review
- **CONSISTENCY** in the interpretation of the TCPS
- **COORDINATION** among research ethics boards, particularly for review of multi-site research
- **CAPACITY** building, to promote a culture of research ethics throughout the research community
- **COMMON SENSE** in adopting a proportionate approach to ethics review

# Clarity

- Consultation in 2003 to identify **issues** requiring clarification:
  - Definition of research
  - Minimal risk
  - Delegated authority
  - Continuing ethics review

# Consistency

- To enhance consistency in the application of the TCPS, the Panel offers an interpretation service
- By responding to questions from the research community, the Panel has built a body of work that contributes to better understanding of the TCPS
- Better understanding promotes greater consistency in the interpretation and application of the TCPS

# Coordination

- **Multicentred Research Ethics Review Models**
  - Ethics review by single REBs
  - Central REB
  - Reciprocal REB
  - Shared REB
  - Delegation or agency
  - Ad hoc review

# Building Capacity

- **Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples**
  - Expanded chapter in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- **Qualitative Research**
  - New chapter in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- **On-Line Introductory Tutorial for the TCPS**
  - Important tool for training graduate students
  - New case study highlighting social sciences research

# Common Sense

- **Proportionate approach to research ethics review**
- **Establishing limits to research ethics review**
- **Focussing on ethical principles in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**
- **Need for increased emphasis on education and training**

# 16 Reports Submitted for 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

## A sample:

- Definition of Research
- Concept of Vulnerability
- Concept of Risk
- Multicentred Research Ethics Review
- Qualitative Research
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Internet Research
- Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples

# The Bigger Picture – Governance

- **Sponsors' Table & Experts Committee**
  - Major initiative to reconsider how ethics is governed
- **Response of Panel**
  - Recommends better use of existing mechanisms, with a focus on broader mandatory use of the TCPS, and greater emphasis on education and training
- **Get Involved**
  - Major consultation on draft 2<sup>nd</sup> edition - fall 2008

# How to Reach Us



## Panel on Research Ethics

350 Albert Street

Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 1H5

Tel: (613) 996-0072

[secretariat@pre.ethics.gc.ca](mailto:secretariat@pre.ethics.gc.ca)

[www.pre.ethics.gc.ca](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca)



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