

Sealaska Heritage Institute Research Policy

The Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian share with scientists an interest in learning about the culture and history of their societies.

Scientists and researchers who conduct studies among Southeast Alaska Natives have an ethical obligation to consult and cooperate with Natives in order to fully understand Native culture and community issues.

The best scientific standards and results are obtained when Southeast Alaska Natives are directly involved in research conducted in their communities and in those studies in which the findings will have a direct impact on Native populations.

The Sealaska Heritage Institute recommends to all public and private institutions that conduct or support research among Alaska Natives that they include a standard category of funding in their projects to ensure Native participation.

The Sealaska Heritage Institute shall convey to all scientists and researchers who plan to conduct studies among Southeast Alaska Natives that they must comply with the following Research Principles in order to secure Native cooperation:

1. Advise Native people who are to be affected by the study of the purpose, goals, and time-frame of the research, the data-gathering techniques, the positive and negative implications and impacts of the research.
2. Obtain the informed consent of the appropriate governing body.
3. Fund the support of a Native Research Committee appointed by the local community to assess and monitor the research project and to ensure compliance with the expressed wishes of Native people;

4. Protect the sacred knowledge and cultural and intellectual property and knowledge of Native people.
5. Hire and train Native people to assist in the study.
6. Use Native language whenever English is second language.
7. Guarantee confidentiality of surveys and sensitive material.
8. Include Native viewpoints in the final study.
9. Acknowledge the contributions of Native resource people.
10. Inform the Native Research Committee in a summary and in non-technical language of the major findings of study.
11. Provide copies of studies to the local library.
12. Reflect and adhere to the cultural protocols of the Native community in which the research is to be conducted.

Adopted this 16th day of January, 2004.

Dr. Walter Soboleff, Chair

Sealaska Heritage Institute

