



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL *of* **Indigenous Health**

DEFINING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN HEALTH RESEARCH

The *International Journal of Indigenous Health* (IJIH) does not have a guide for authors for assistance in defining Indigenous Peoples in research internationally; if research is within Canada, please consult the IJIH guide “Defining Aboriginal Peoples Within Canada.” Though often Indigenous Peoples are minorities residing within larger nation states, collectively they speak over 4,000 languages amongst approximately 370 million Indigenous people worldwide (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2013; Reading, Perron, Marsden, & Edgar, 2010). Currently, there is not a globally accepted definition of “Indigenous Peoples” or definitive agreement on what constituting elements define an Indigenous person, nation, collective, community, culture or group (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2013). Similarly, there is not a definitive international guide or comprehensive list of Indigenous nations, communities, cultures or groups. Therefore, the IJIH recommends wherever possible authors are guided by a widely supported rights-based principle of *self-identification* by the Indigenous nation, collective, community, culture or group. Global Indigenous rights resources, such as Article 33 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2007), and scholarly reviews support that Indigenous Peoples are in the best position to identify themselves and how they wish to be defined in the research process (Bartlett, Madariaga-Vignudo, O’Neil, & Kuhnlein, 2007; Corntassel, 2003). Ongoing international and community-based efforts will contribute to the developments that identify acceptable components of unifying definitions.

References

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General Assembly of the United Nations. (2007). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/61/295)*. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

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Reading, J., Perron, D., Marsden, N., & Edgar, R. (2010). *Global Indigenous health: An opportunity for Canadian leadership*. Retrieved from University of Victoria Centre for Aboriginal Health Research website: <http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cahr/knowledge/publications/globalhealth2010report.pdf>