

Statement of Principles & Practices

Background

Since 1968, an informal group of people has gathered annually for an Algonquian Conference to present and discuss scholarship connected with the histories, cultures, languages, and related topics relevant to Algonquian Peoples, and has subsequently published an annual publication called *Papers of the Algonquian Conference (PAC)*. The members of this group are now in the process of establishing an Algonquian Studies Association (abbreviated as ASA and referred to in this document as the Association). This **Statement of Principles and Practices** is intended to be a guiding document for the formalization of policies for the Algonquian Studies Association. The practices are intended to be concrete examples of how these principle values will operate within the Algonquian Studies Association. Together the principles and practices form a living document that expresses both the aspirations and commitments of the Association.

Preamble

Being a community of practice engaged in the celebration of and sustained support for the languages, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples of North America generally, and Algonquian peoples specifically; and

Respecting and recognizing the value of Indigenous intellectual traditions and ways of knowing that endure despite colonization; and

Recognizing the foundational role of Indigenous languages in grounding and strengthening cultural traditions, knowledge-keeping, community health, and individual well-being; and

Upholding the inherent sovereignty of Indigenous nations, and acknowledging the harms and resource misappropriation caused by fraud and misrepresentation;

The Algonquian Studies Association chooses the following principles to guide the lived practice of creating and implementing our Association's policies and procedures.

Upholding Sovereignty

Upholding both the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and Indigenous data sovereignty is the starting place from which we engage in our work. We acknowledge the history of extractive research, and recognize that normative academic structures and principles of academic research integrity are insufficient to protect Indigenous sovereignty.

How this principle is practiced:

- Indigenous nations have the authority and responsibility to oversee the creation of knowledge that concerns or involves their communities and their lands. Moreover, Indigenous data sovereignty gives Indigenous nations authority over data about and concerning their communities. Therefore, all work submitted for presentation and for publication is expected to have undergone all appropriate community levels of review, in addition to any academic or institutional reviews.
- Indigenous nations determine their own belonging. Claims of individual and community-level identity and affiliation should be both specific and supportable by evidence.

Building Capacity & Sustaining Support

In celebrating Algonquian languages and cultures, the Algonquian Studies Association strives to foster a warm, welcoming, and accessible experience where active participation is encouraged, with particular attention to those who have been or felt excluded while balancing resource constraints and need for flexibility.

How this principle is practiced:

- We celebrate knowledge-bearers and language-bearers as living treasures.
- We invite Indigenous communities to participate in the Association and its activities.
- We pursue broad membership, and work to overcome barriers to involvement and engagement, especially for local Indigenous communities, culture- and language-knowledge-bearers, language activists, students, and early career scholars.
- We pursue wide access for *Papers of the Algonquian Conference (PAC)* and other Association publications.
- We expect data citations and attributions to follow best practices for crediting Indigenous contributions.
- We expect analyses of and references to historical and contemporary data to be attuned to potential harms emerging from the context in which the work was produced.
- We empower the executive Board to run the business-end of the events and publications to provide continuity, while giving conference organizers and publication editors flexibility within that structure.

Embracing Accountability & Transparency

We recognize the legacy of extractive knowledge production in many fields of study, and recognize the insufficiency of academic integrity and scholarly norms to address past and on-going harms. We embrace transparency in our policies, practices, and procedures, and hold ourselves accountable for acting as good-relatives as we engage with Indigenous language communities, aspiring Indigenous scholars, the land hosting our activities, and each other as members.

How this principle is practiced:

- We expect that descriptions of collaborative relationships and knowledge production should be specific and shared by all involved.
- We establish a Code of Conduct of respectful, ethical behaviour for all event attendees, and include clear mechanisms for reporting alleged violations or related concerns.
- We use robust measures to prevent and root out academic and identity fraud, establish clear consequences for fraudulent claims and misrepresentations, and address allegations through open and timely processes.
- We establish clear criteria and transparent procedures for selecting editorial positions with the *Papers of the Algonquian Conference (PAC)* and other publications.
- We exercise shared governance as specified in the By-Laws of the Association, and as decided upon by the Membership.