



**AHA CENTRE**  
A PROJECT OF CAAN

## What Does That Word Mean?! : Jargon-Busting 101

People who have been doing research for a while and coordinators of research teams may use a lot of words or acronyms that are new to you. It's great to familiarize yourself with AHA Centre jargon (special words used that may be unfamiliar to the public) and acronyms so that you have an easier time understanding who or what is being talked about in research team discussions.

This fact-sheet should help with that!

### **The Who**

- Community Research Assistant:** An Indigenous community member who collaborates on the project and provides guidance and insight on decision-making.
- Co-Applicant/ Knowledge User:** Contributes to completing the proposal submission, brings expertise to and supports key aspects of the research and remains involved throughout or contributes as needed to the research project.
- Collaborator:** Supports the key objectives of the research project by providing expertise and knowledge as needed throughout and/or on specific aspects of the research
- HIV "Older":** An Indigenous person who has been living long-term with HIV/AIDS and have wisdom and teachings to share about how to live well
- Knowledge Gatherer:** Supports the key objectives of the project by collecting data through various methods
- Knowledge Holder:** Members of Indigenous and local communities who are knowledgeable in various aspects and forms of Indigenous knowledge and/or knowledge on the topic of the research project.
- Knowledge User:** Any individual who is likely to be able to use research results to make informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices,
- Nominated Principle Applicant:** Has overall responsibility for and commitment to a research project including proposal writing, ensuring the project moves forward once funded, and facilitating project implementation.
- Principle Applicant/Principle Knowledge User:** Has responsibility for and commitment to completing the proposal submission, while contributing expertise to key aspects of the research that couldn't be done without their involvement.
- Researcher(s):** Co-learners and partners in discovery of many truths to be told about the topic being researched
- Research Ethics Board:** Group of people who review applications for approval to do research with human participants; oversees and advises on the ethical aspects of research
- Stakeholder:** Anybody invested in the outcome, such as Indigenous Peoples living with HIV/AIDS, community members, funders, ethics boards, council, health workers, etc.

### **The What**

- Community-Based Research:** Research that is conducted by the community, for the community. Its collaborative framework foregrounds Indigenous Knowledge and a commitment to community involvement, relevance, and benefit, and ensures that all contributing voices are valued equally.
- Community Engagement:** A key element of CBR; includes the greater involvement and meaningful engagement of people through community outreach involving things like attending community-based events, conferences, and inviting community members to research labs and centres as participants and/or speakers in order to develop meaningful, long-term relationships.
- Capacity Bridging:** Recognizes the capacity (skills and knowledge) that individuals bring to a team and focuses on reciprocity in sharing these capacities between academics, researchers, community-based researchers, and community members. The emphasis is on coming together and building a bridge between the equally-valued knowledge and expertise of every team member.
- Ethical Guidelines:** All research is governed by strict ethical considerations and guidelines that ensure no harm through research activities. Ethical guidelines are set by the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics, and Indigenous communities and research ethics knowledge holders.
- Grant:** Financial support/funding made available by various institutions to help fund research efforts and projects; require application and research project proposal.
- Grant Peer Review:** Process of evaluating research proposals/applications for funding to assess the quality and the potential impact of the proposed research and related activities; reviewers are grouped into peer review committees based on their expertise.
- Hypothesis:** A proposed explanation for or response to the research question when the actual cause is either not known or does not adequately explain what is observed.
- Indigenous Research:** Research in any field or discipline that is conducted by, grounded in or engaged with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous nations/peoples and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems. Indigenous research can embrace the intellectual, physical, emotional and/or spiritual dimensions of knowledge in creative and interconnected relationships with people, places and the natural environment.
- Knowledge Translation:** Sharing what the research project has learned with stakeholders (community members, council, funders, ethics boards, etc.), those who participated and those who will be directly impacted by the research.
- Knowledge Mobilization:** The reciprocal and complementary flow and uptake of research knowledge between researchers and knowledge users in such a way that may benefit knowledge users and create positive impacts.
- Research Question:** The overarching question or problem that the research team seeks to explore or answer with their project.

# Jargon-Busting 101: Part Two



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## **The How**

**Methodology or Methodologies:** System(s) of methods used in a particular area of study or research activity; the methods that are used to actually conduct the research.

**Indigenous Methodologies:** Methods that honour the essence of doing good for the community with strengths-based approaches and land- and arts-based methods such as storytelling, talking and sharing circles, drum making, beading, collage making, music, and more.

**Decolonizing Methodologies:** Considering the effects of colonization; honouring relationships and the inclusion of cultural traditions and ceremonies; focusing on respect, relationality, and relational accountability; recognizing Indigenous community members' knowledge of their culture and traditional knowledge as an essential part of the research

**Land-Based Methodologies:** Methods that recognize the inseparability of land and water from health and wellbeing, and recognize that being on the land heals – methods include land-based activities such as medicine walks, berry picking, fishing, etc.

**Quantitative Research:** Research team explores a topic using numeric data analysis. Surveys are often used in quantitative research.

**Qualitative Research:** Research team explores a topic using textual or thematic data analysis. Focus groups, ethnographies, and photovoice are considered forms of qualitative research.

**Mixed-Methods Research:** Topic explored by combining qualitative and quantitative data and analysis. Qualitative and quantitative data can be collected and analyzed at the same time or in sequence.

**Recruitment:** The process of inviting eligible individuals and community members to apply to become participants/collaborators in the research project as knowledge holders from whom data will be collected.

**Screening:** The process of checking applicants' eligibility and ensuring suitability and consent for receiving further contact and information about the study for moving forward as participants and/or collaborators.

**Data Collection:** The process of gathering information through a variety of activities and events. Data collection often follows a written plan describing exactly how the researchers will collect information: who collects it, when, where, and how. The above methodologies describe the activities and events during which data collection can take place.

**Data Analysis:** A systematic approach to problem solving, in which researchers organize data to make sense of the results. Analysis involves the identification of trends, themes, relationships and tendencies that support theoretical conclusions and answers to the research question.

**Dissemination:** Another word for communicating the study results to multiple audiences, including the community, academia, policy makers, etc. In CBR projects, research findings are often communicated in multiple ways, such as research reports, conference presentations, community workshops, and even theatrical performances.

**Knowledge Translation:** A dynamic and iterative process that engages community in synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge in ways that show connections between spiritual and physical worlds and which create opportunities for knowledge users to learn, grow, and use the knowledge meaningfully.

## **Acronyms**

**AHA Centre:** The Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre

**AASOs/IASOs:** Aboriginal Aids Service Organizations/  
Indigenous Aids Service Organizations

**CAAN:** The Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network

**CBR:** Community-Based Research

**CIHR:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research

**GIPA:** The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS principle

**IPHA:** Indigenous Peoples [or person] Living with HIV/AIDS

**IIWGHA:** International Indigenous Working Group on HIV & AIDS

**KT:** Knowledge Translation

**MIPA:** The Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS principle, evolved from GIPA

**OCAP:** Ownership, Control, Access and Possession; principles for ethical and Indigenous-led research by, with and for Indigenous peoples

**SSHRC:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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Prepared by Madison Wells  
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We have no conflicts to declare

