

## DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNANCE POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Category	Corporate Services
Policy Search Name	C – Data Sovereignty and Governance Policy Statement (2020)
*Anishinabek Standard	
<i>Place of Learning</i>	<i>F. Fosters extensive on-going participation, communication and interaction between Kenjgewin Teg and community personnel.</i>
<i>Educators</i>	N/A
<i>Students</i>	N/A
<i>Curriculum</i>	N/A
Approval Date & Board Motion Number	7/22/2020 Motion #042-2020
Effective Date	7/22/2020
Previous Versions	Date initially approved: 7/22/2020 Date of last revision: N/A

\* These are organizationally adapted standards from the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) and the Alaska Comprehensive Centre/Alaska Native Education approved by the Kenjgewin Teg Board of Directors, 2015.

### Definitions

“indigenous data sovereignty”	refers to the right of an Indigenous Nation to govern the collection, ownership, and application of its own data; Indigenous data sovereignty means managing information in a way that is consistent with the laws, practices and customs in which it is located
“indigenous data governance”	refers to the power and authority to make rules and decisions about the design, interpretation, validation, ownership, access to and use of data; indigenous data governance, whether for a small group or a large nation, means being capable of data leadership and stewardship, future-oriented planning, problem solving, evaluating outcomes, developing strategies and taking remedial action
“OCAP”	refers to a set of standardized principles known as <i>ownership, control, access, and possession</i> to ensure that the collection, sharing, ownership, and use of data and information from Indigenous communities are governed and controlled by communities and Nations themselves; OCAP is an important expression of Indigenous data jurisdiction in Canada
“research”	for the purpose of this policy statement, research includes any work that raises and builds an increased level of consciousness and insight into our Indigenous and Anishinabek world, based on relational accountability;

examples include academic research published in scholarly journals, or it may be community action projects which may or may not be published in scholarly journals

*Definitions and information in this policy statement have been adapted from:*

- *First Nations Information Governance Centre*
- *Decolonizing Data: Indigenous Data Sovereignty Primer, Open North in collaboration with the British Columbia First Nations Data Governance Initiative (BCFNDGI), April 2017*
- *Indigenous Data Sovereignty/Toward an Agenda; Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research College of Arts and Social Sciences the Australian National University, Canberra; 2016*

## **Background**

- A. Positive results will occur when Indigenous peoples have control over what and how data, information and knowledge will be generated, analyzed, documented, and disseminated. Data sovereignty is linked with Indigenous peoples' right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as their right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property in these areas.
- B. Indigenous communities are not a homogenous group; in the year 2020, there are 634 recognized First Nations in Canada, with different forms of culture, governance within 55 language groups; accordingly, there will be different approaches to data sovereignty across Indigenous Nations and the institutions who support them; Indigenous Nations and the institutions that support them will define their own data sovereignty and data governance principles – uniquely determining how they wish to tell their story historically, in the present, and into the future.

## **Purpose**

- C. The purpose of this policy statement is to affirm and begin introductory steps in asserting Kenjgewin Teg's institutional data sovereignty as supported by its member communities. Data collected by Kenjgewin Teg may be collected in various subject areas, including, but not limited to, human resources, students, culturally relevant curriculum, programs and pedagogy, governance, and education research.

## **Policy Statement**

- D. As an organization experiencing ongoing institutional growth and development, Kenjgewin Teg will be conscientious in the way its collects, stores, uses and shares its data, as well as protecting its data, preserving its security and managing information consistent with local Anishinabek laws and cultural norms. Kenjgewin Teg will be conscientious in its evolving developmental and ongoing policy work in this area of Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous data governance, respecting the data and research principles of OCAP.
- E. This conscientiousness is explicitly stated to prevent both historic and continued practices of perpetuation of Indigenous data used to gather, analyze and disseminate information on

Indigenous/Anishinabek communities as a means of systemic oppression, and as a means of creating barriers and unequal power relations; explicit conscientiousness is also needed to prevent the use, collection and interpretation of Indigenous/Anishinabek data through a statistical lens which reflects disadvantage and negative stereotyping; and, lastly, conscientiousness is required to prevent data on Indigenous/Anishinabek communities collected by others which has little or benefit to Indigenous communities.

- F. Overall, Kenjgewin Teg’s data sovereignty and data governance principles will ensure that its data is safeguarded as Indigenous intellectual property and is of great value and meaning to its members and Indigenous/Anishinabek communities. From a practical perspective, such data and information of great value and meaning is effectively and positively used to advise and influence policy and institutional decision-making.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

- G. The President is responsible for the overall management and operation of Kenjgewin Teg. As a critical policy advancing the growth and development of Kenjgewin Teg, the President will actively assist and provide guidance in this area together with the Vice President of Institutional Planning and Development.
- H. The Vice President of Institutional Planning and Development is responsible for advancing this policy statement by creating new data sovereignty and data governance policies and protocols for approval by the Kenjgewin Teg Board of Directors.
- I. If a position referred to in this policy is vacant, the policy will not be invalidated. Instead, the President shall designate the roles and responsibilities of that role to another team member(s) and will ensure that the Kenjgewin Teg staff and community is informed of the designation(s) as appropriate.

**Policy Statement Evaluation Date - 10/31/2021**

- J. This policy statement will be reviewed biannually, or sooner if needed, to support the growth and development of Kenjgewin Teg’s data sovereignty and data governance position.

<b>Related Legislation, Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anishinabek Education Research Policy Statement</li> </ul>
<b>Policies Superseded by this Policy</b>	None
<b><i>The official version of this policy statement is housed in the Office of the President. In case of discrepancy between an online version and the official version held, the official version shall prevail.</i></b>	