Alaska Indigenous Research Program: Researching within an Indigenist Paradigm
Opaskwayak Cree Manitoba Canada

Father to 3 beautiful boys
Community Psychologist
Researcher, Teacher Scholar
Ceremony Helper and Leader

Husband, son, uncle and cousin
Indigenous people have always had ways of teaching, learning and conducting research.
What is an Indigenist research paradigm, and why do we need one?
Culture as an Iceberg

Visible culture

Underlying philosophy
Research Culture as an Iceberg

Methods

Research Paradigm
• Nature of reality
• Ways of knowing
• Values
• Methodology – ways of acquiring knowledge
Research methodology is a reflection of a worldview
Building Indigenous Knowledge requires an Indigenist Research Paradigm
Asserting our sovereignty includes reclaiming our intellectual traditions
Indigenous Knowledge has Agency
Indigenist Research

Defining and articulating OUR knowledge

Operates upon an Indigenist paradigm
Indigenous Research Paradigm

Relationality

Relational Accountability
Relationality

Relationships ARE our reality
These relations make us who we are, our roles in relationships are our ways of being
Our ways of knowing are based upon relational epistemology.
Relational Accountability

We are accountable to all our relations
reciprocal
respectful
responsible

Our Ways of Being
Why research is a ceremony

Reality is relationships

Space ‘between things’ in relationships is sacred
Ceremony bridges this sacred space, and builds closer relationship.
Research is a ceremony for building closer relationship with an idea.
“If your research doesn’t change you, then you haven’t done it right”
Not a story until it’s told

How to document it?
How I engage with the world around me

How we engage with Knowledge
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Ekosi

Bye

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