

‘NAMGIS FIRST NATION

Guidelines for Visiting Researchers/Access to Information

Not only in Alert Bay but also on many other British Columbia Indian Reserves, visiting researchers are welcome provided that they commit themselves to observing certain “Rules of Conduct”. Those for the ‘Namgis First Nation have been developed at the direction and request of our Council, Advisors and the Keepers of our Culture.

These rules are not meant to make life difficult for the researcher; on the contrary, they are meant to ensure clarity and fairness in the relationship between, on the one hand, the visiting researcher and his/her supporting institution and possible funding sources, and on the other, the hosting Indian Band, its research and development objectives, and the Band Members serving as institution and staff of the Band.

In exchange for accepting and abiding by the rules, the Band will support the researcher with, firstly, permission to conduct research on the Reserve, and secondly with what pertinent resources it can offer.

Briefly stated the rules and guidelines listed below are intended to ensure that the following basic concerns of the Band are met:

- a) that the research be of benefit to the Band, both in its intent and its outcome;
- b) that it be conducted according to professional standards and ethics;

With regards to the latter, prospective researchers and supporting institutions are referred to section 8 of “Ethical Guidelines for Research and Human Subjects”, adopted March 1979 by the SSHRC re: individual and collective rights. Two principles basic to all ethical guidelines are 1) no harm, and 2) informed consent.

- c) that the interests of the Band and the confidentiality of informants be protected with regard to the dissemination of original research data to any third party (that is to persons or institutions other than the researcher).

Note: “the interests of the Band...etc.” are to be determined in consultation with the Band and are not to be a matter of unilateral assumption on the part of the researcher or his/her supporting institution.

- d) The Band welcomes projects leading to the dissemination of accurate and respectful descriptions of its heritage and culture, especially when native perspectives and interpretations are included in the presentation.

The Band may wish, however, to retain copyright of both the research data and any publications (including papers presented in a public or professional forum) arising from the outcome of the research project. This consideration would depend upon the nature of the

proposed project, the degree of professional assistance provided by the Band, or local concepts of ownership of certain kinds of cultural knowledge.

The matter of copyright and of any restrictions the Band may wish to place on either the dissemination of research data or interpretations derived therefrom, should be discussed or negotiated at the outset of the project. Likewise, any conflict between conditions set by the Band on the one hand, and commitments required of the researcher by any other institution or funding source, on the other hand, should be made known to the Band and resolved at the outset.

The RULES and PROCEDURES for visiting researchers wishing to conduct research on the reserve are as follows:

- 1) Prior to consent being given to conduct research, a written proposal must be submitted to the Band for its consideration.

The proposal should be sent to the attention of the Band Manager, 'Namgis First Nation, P.O. Box 210, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0. Telephone: (250) 974-5556; FAX: (250) 974-5900.

- 2) The proposal should provide the following information:
 - a) Name, address, and telephone number of the prospective researcher
 - b) Title of research project
 - c) Detailed project description, to be based on the principle of "full disclosure" and to include:
 - i) statement of research objectives;
 - ii) proposed manner in which research will be carried out, including project phases and research methodology;
 - iii) purpose of the research;
 - iv) intended/proposed application of research results.
 - d) Name of sponsoring agency
 - e) Name of funding agency or agencies
 - f) Names and addresses of three references (or letters of reference)
 - g) Anticipated date of completion of project
 - h) Include also: curriculum vita of applicant researcher
- 3) The review and approval process is as follows:
 - a) Assessment by the staff of the 'Namgis First Nation, or other designate of Council, for compliance with Band information requirements, including references check;
 - b) Presentation of project proposal or request for information and all details relating to (2) to Chiefs and Council;

- c) Presentation to 'Namgis First Nation of all commentary and recommendations from staff and Cultural Advisors for final decision.
- 4) Upon approval by the Band of the proposed research project, the next step is the formalization of mutually agreed upon conditions governing the following:
- a) conduct of research in the community;
 - b) disposition and ownership of research data;
 - c) copyright of resulting reports and publications.

They are usually set out in the form of a signed contract between the researcher and the Band.

A sample contract is attached. It should be noted that the Band generally requires: a) that originals of all tape recordings and copies of all field notes remain with or be provided to the Band; b) that copies of original research data not be disseminated to any third party (person or institution) without prior knowledge and consent of the Band, and c) that the Band be consulted prior to the publication or public presentation of any outcomes of the research project.

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CONTRACT**

I _____, have read and understand the terms and conditions in the document titled ‘Namgis First Nation Guidelines for Visiting Researchers/Access to Information’ and hereby agree to abide by the “Terms and Conditions” contained therein.

Date Signed: _____, 20__

Signature: _____

‘Namgis First Nation: _____

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Please return this contract to: ‘Namgis First Nation
Attention: Lawrence Ambers
P.O. Box 210
Alert Bay, B.C. V0N 1A0

Phone: (250) 974-5556
FAX: (250) 974-5900