



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Research Officer, Critical Data Studies

Internal and External Competition

Full-time, Indefinite Position
Hybrid (Ottawa or Akwesasne Office) or Full-time Remote in Canada
Deadline for applications: August 26, 2024 (or until filled)

About FNIGC

The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) is an independent, apolitical, and technical non-profit organization that envisions every First Nation achieving data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view. FNIGC supports the development of information governance at the First Nations community level through regional and national partnerships.

The Data Sovereignty Research Collaborative (DSRC) is a new collaborative within FNIGC where we work with our colleagues in Surveys, Education and Training, the First Nations Data Centre, and the National Data Champions team that is coordinating the phased development of First Nations-led data infrastructure. But we also work with First Nations and other education and research institutes, with not-for-profits and communities of practice, and a range of knowledge keepers from many backgrounds in Turtle Island and abroad.

The DSRC is a place for creative inquiry and applied research in First Nations information governance and data sovereignty, including the community-led development of tools and standards for asserting and respecting the First Nations principles of OCAP®. We start with data and information in different forms, data and information systems and practices, and data and information worldviews, protocols, science, and theory. We bring awareness of law, practice, community, and meaning to our collaborative practice.

We work in several complementary *modes* – e.g., tool development, exploratory research, listening and education; we work in multiple *domains* – e.g., First Nations services and governments, post-secondary research, global Indigenous collaboration; and we bring different *literacies* to our work – e.g., archival, library, and information sciences, First Nations language and knowledge sharing protocols, ‘big data’ and ‘AI’, and collaborative inquiry design. Our work respects that First Nations data is sacred to First Nations, and each has the right to own and govern their collective data and knowledge gifts as self-determined, self-governing First Nations. A key aspect of the DSRC is working with other First Nations and allied research, education, and analysis bodies and ensuring that First Nations students, thought leaders, and early career data workers carry these critical perspectives into their relations and places of influence.

The successful candidate will be eligible for flexible work hours, hybrid work, a competitive salary, benefits package, pension plan, and generous paid time-off benefits.

About the Role

Reporting directly to the Research Lead of the new FNIGC Data Sovereignty Research Collaborative (DSRC), the Research Officer, Critical Data Studies has a wide range of responsibilities to plan, organize, and undertake critical inquiry and applied research in First Nations data sovereignty with the DSRC.

The Research Officer, Critical Data Studies will make critical and creative contributions to the DSRC's – and by extension FNIGC's – understanding of data as a powerful medium for both Indigenous governance and colonial control, involving complex relations of law, practice, meaning, and community. They will centre First Nations self-determination and cultural resurgence in what is often a hyperactive and market-oriented field of data systems and science, and work with the DSRC and other FNIGC teams to maintain high standards of First Nations-centered research data management, ethics, information governance, and consent protocols. They will also assist in developing skills among staff and FNIGC's regional organizations, in a collaborative manner.

The incumbent will contribute to adherence to research/project protocols, operating procedures, and all associated internal and external processes. A key aspect of this role is to promote the advancement of First Nations data sovereignty and information governance in keeping with the principles of OCAP® while implementing wise practices and protocols in a variety of priority subject areas at FNIGC.

Duties & Responsibilities

A. Critical Data Research

1. Plays a lead role in the critical exploration of existing and potential data systems and data paradigms, intended to increase First Nations' agency and knowledge in advancing their data sovereignty and OCAP®.
2. Leads, co-creates, or contributes to a wide range of targeted outputs, including issue and discussion papers, submissions, community-facing tools and reference materials, presentations, and participates in knowledge translation, web-based, and other creative interventions.
3. Contributes to research design on projects led by or in partnership with FNIGC, where appropriate, incorporating research methodologies developed by Indigenous communities and based on Indigenous worldviews.
4. Identifies avenues for disseminating research products or project deliverables in conjunction with colleagues.
5. Works with the Research Lead and colleagues to develop and manage all components of an individual work plan.
6. Contributes to the planning, design and priority-setting for DSRC activities. Participate in developing metrics to ensure all new programs meet their stated objectives.
7. Assists in preparing materials for ethics review (if applicable), proposal writing, and reporting for FNIGC, and, where appropriate, with Regional Partners in collaborative initiatives.
8. Disseminates information, expertise, and knowledge to leadership and other colleagues by preparing internal reports and briefing notes on project activities.
9. Identifies relevant conferences, workshops, and other venues for learning and networking opportunities, and where FNIGC research/project findings may be showcased.
10. Where appropriate and as directed, makes presentations and participates in or leads activities such as workshops, discussion circles, design sessions, etc.
11. Participates in reviewing work and research by FNIGC contractors.

B. Knowledge Sharing, Mentorship and Development

1. Brings awareness, honours, and incorporates Indigenous methodologies and methods.
2. Works with the Research Lead and others to develop and embed information governance and data sovereignty research principles and wise practices that advance progressive data relations and norms.
3. Brings critical awareness and technical understanding to working groups, committees, projects, and staff knowledge sharing session, working with colleagues to ensure law, practice, community, and meaning are all considered in the DSRC's collaborative approach.

4. Participates in design, delivery, and evaluation of knowledge sharing, training, and mentorship opportunities for DSRC trainees, visiting students and guest staff, and colleagues in partner organizations, particularly First Nations.

C. Support FNIGC's Research function

1. Supports and contributes to the continuous improvement of FNIGC's research ethics review function (RERF), including participation in committee meetings.
2. Contributes to the development of FNIGC's cultural framework.
3. Contributes advice and participates in development of RDM and other data structures that respect First Nations data sovereignty at FNIGC and in our networks.
4. Maintains familiarity with relevant research ethics, information governance, and research data management policy at the regional, Canadian, and where appropriate international levels.

Job Requirements

1. Incisive and intuitive understanding of the technological, cultural, social, and political nature of data in contemporary life and ways of organizing key activities.
2. Experience working with or studying data systems, science, governance, or theory.
3. Experience using and incorporating critical and participatory research methodologies, including those developed by Indigenous communities and based in Indigenous worldviews.
4. Experience working with First Nations organizations or communities possessing operational knowledge and understanding of issues facing First Nations locally, regionally and nationally.
5. Excellent communication and presentation skills, both written and spoken.
6. Strong ability to effectively plan and coordinate projects/activities.
7. Thorough understanding of project/ program management techniques and methods.
8. Excellent organizational and time management skills to effectively handle issues simultaneously and meet scheduled timelines.
9. Ability to take initiative, be self-motivated and use independent judgement while being a dedicated team player.
10. Well-developed interpersonal skills with an ability to relate to people at all levels, in and out of FNIGC, coupled with integrity while handling confidential information with discretion.
11. Strong ability to think creatively, to identify and resolve problems.
12. Exceptional knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and working knowledge of research and citation software and tools.
13. First Nations lived experience is an asset.
14. English is the working language, although the ability to communicate effectively in any Indigenous language or French would also be an asset.

Education and Experience

1. A Master's degree in Information Studies or a related field, *or* in any social sciences or humanities, public health, Indigenous studies or similar field with a concentration in data or information governance, systems, or theory. Comparable diplomas and certificates will also be considered, if there is evidence of substantial research or critical engagement experience.
2. At least three to four years of progressively related work experience conducting research, analysis, and/or public engagement in relation to data governance, data infrastructures, and the socio-political implications of data and data flows.
3. Experience working with First Nations and an understanding of First Nations governance and collective rights will be considered an asset.

Application Information

We invite qualified candidates to send their *résumé* and cover letter telling us why you think you'd be a great addition to the FNIGC team to recruitment@fnigc.ca by August 26, 2024, or until the position is filled.

As preference in hiring will be given to First Nations candidates, applicants are encouraged to self-identify. FNIGC is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. We will work with you if you require accommodation to meet your needs. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

To learn more about other FNIGC career opportunities, please visit www.fnigc.ca