



**NUU-CHAH-NULTH  
TRIBAL COUNCIL**

# **Reciprocal Relationship Building**

## **Challenges and lessons learned from a COVID-19 vaccine study project in Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations**

**Lynnette Lucas**

Director of Health, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

March 8, 2023

# Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations



***iisaakstaḷ***  
(Respect each other)

—

***yaʔakstaḷ***  
(Love each other)

—

***hahopstaḷ***  
(Teach each other)

—

***hopiitstaḷ***  
(Help each other)

—

***aʔaʔstaḷ***  
(Be kind to one another)

# Background of COVID-19 Vaccine Project

- Aligned with **Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report #19 and #22**



## Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT DITIDAHT ʔIIHATIS / ČIINAXINT HESQUIAHT HUPACASATH	HUU-AY-AHT KA:ʔYU:KʔTʔHʔ/CHE:K:TLES7ETʔHʔ MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT NUCHATLAHT TLA-O-QUI-AHT	TOQUAHT TSESHAHT UCHUCKLESAHT YUUʔUʔIʔATH  P.O. BOX 1383 PORT ALBERNI, BC V9Y 7M2 Tel: 250-724-5757 Fax: 250-723-0463
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*Newsletter*

**Nuu-chah-nulth Urges BC To Include All First Nations People  
As Priority In Vaccine Roll-out: Off-Reserve**

March 16, 2021

**Port Alberni, BC-** On March 11, 2021, Canada marked the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 being declared a global pandemic. Over this year, our Nuu-chah-nulth-aht have experienced tragic loss despite valiant efforts by leadership to mitigate the risks to their community members. We take this time to acknowledge every loss and every person who grieves those sad losses.



# Two-eyed seeing - *Etuaptmumk*



- Storytelling, Talking Circles, Photovoice
- Blood Testing, Questionnaire Survey



*iisaakstał*

—

*yaʔakstał*

—

*hahopstał*

—

*hopiitstał*

—

*aʔaʔstał*



# Legacy of past research

## Lack of informed consent and moral grounds

### B.C. residential school survivor says he was starved

At least 1,300 aboriginal people were involved in the government-run nutrition experiment

CBC News · Posted: Jul 17, 2013 6:47 PM PDT



### Forum to be held on Experiments on Students at the Alberni Indian Residential School

By / October 30, 2013



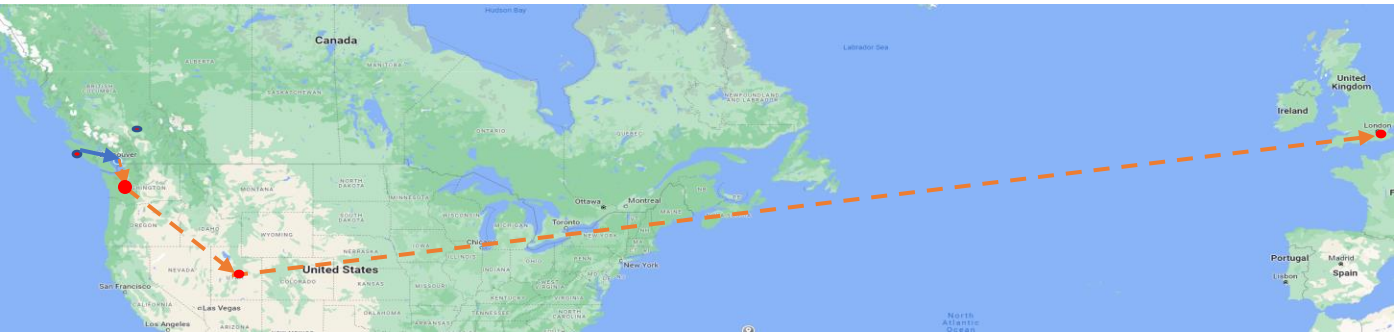
the scene of biomedical experimentation in the 1940s and '50s.

### B.C. natives demand their blood back

CBC News · Posted: Sep 27, 2000 4:03 AM PDT

### Genetic researcher uses Nuu-chah-nulth blood for unapproved studies in Genetic Anthropology

By / July 22, 2013



# Diverse governance and tradition



*iisaakstał*

—

*yaʔakstał*

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*hahopstał*

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*hopiitstał*

—

*aʔaʔstał*

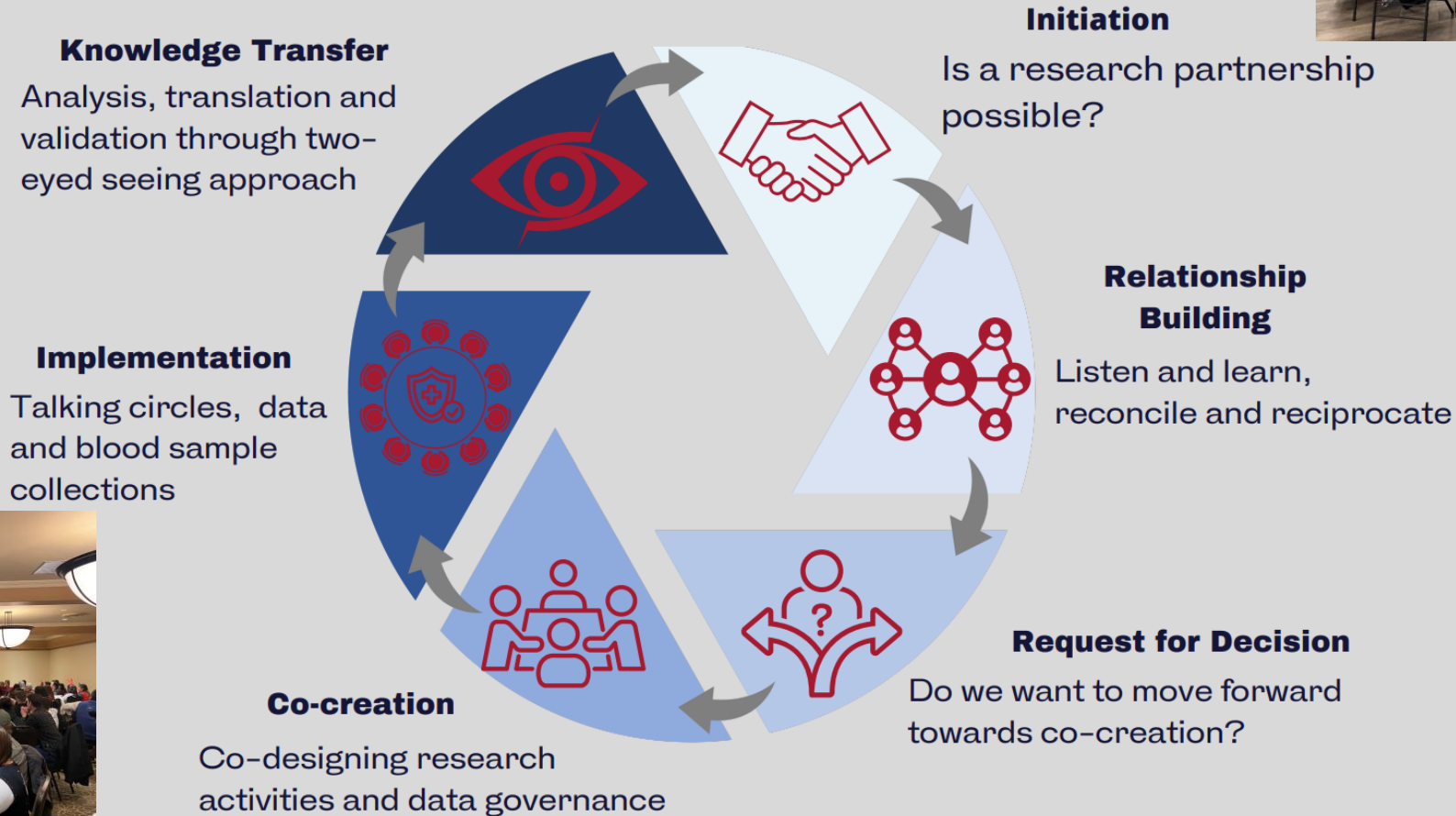




# Co-creation of research



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



iisaakstał

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yaʔakstał

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hahopstał

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hopiitstał

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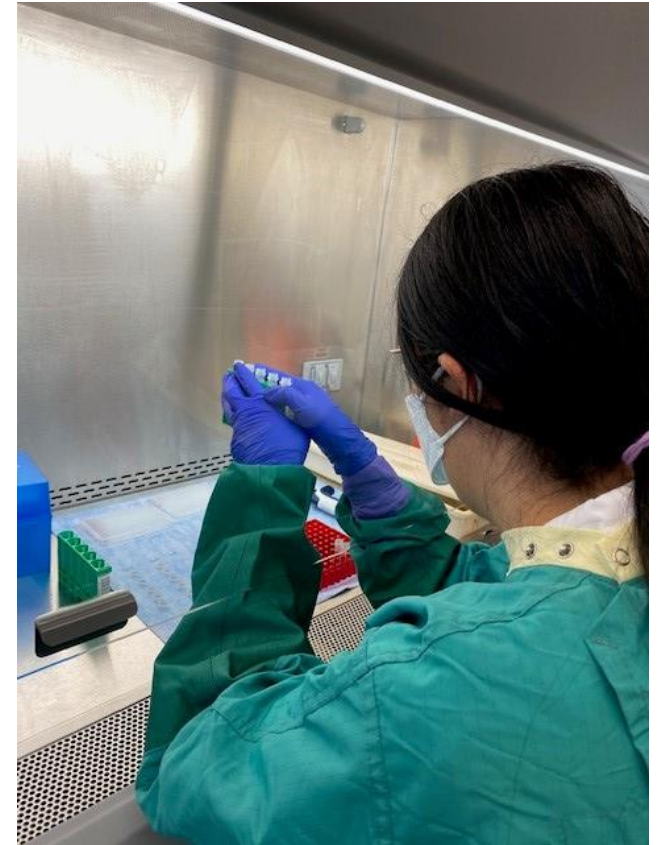
aʔaʔystał

# Development of cultural safety and protocol

Blood is regarded as the most sacred part of their body, integrity, and culture among Nuu-chah-nulth peoples



- Biospecimen Guardian
- Cultural protocol with individual Nations
- Cultural ceremony
- Spiritual accompaniment



*iisaakstaḷ*

—

*yaʔakstaḷ*

—

*hahopstaḷ*

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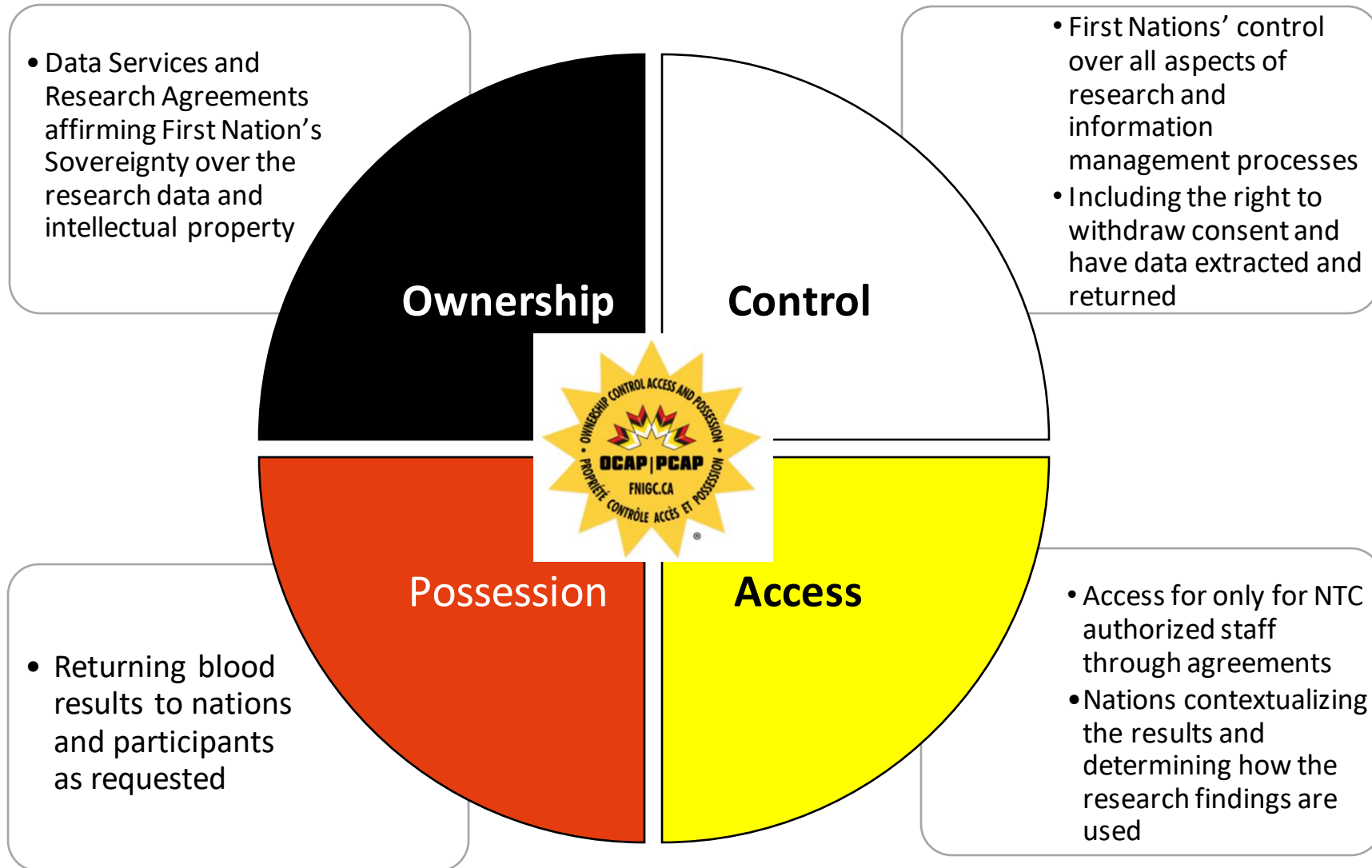
*hopiitstaḷ*

—

*aʔaʔstaḷ*



# Data Services Agreement & FNIGC OCAP®



iisaakstał

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yaʔakstał

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hahopstał

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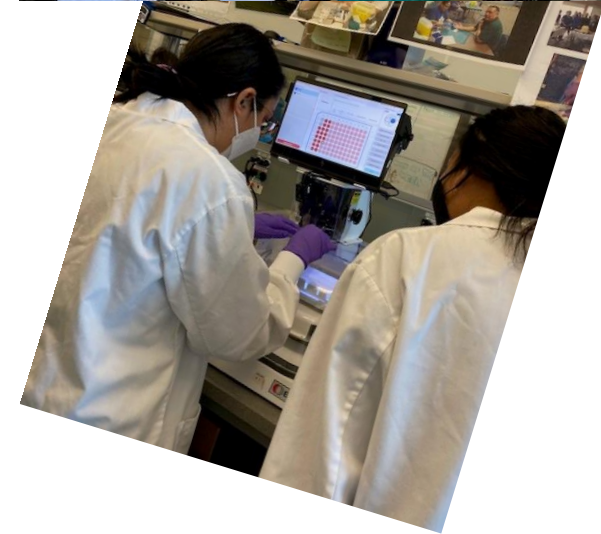
hopiitstał

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apʔaystał

# Reciprocal Relationship

- Collaborative relationship protocols among NTC, SFU and NML
- Collaborative research agreements with member Nations
  - **Seven** Nations were in Co-creation phase
  - **Five** Nations expressed desires or formally committed
- Data collection planned in five urban center for their citizens away from home
- Three pilot data collections conducted
- Blood samples sent to NML and tested



*iisaakstał*

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*yaʔakstał*

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*hahopstał*

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*hopiitstał*

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*aʔaʔstał*

# sayaasim ('into the future')

- Reconciliation
- Decolonization
- Groundwork



*iisaakstał*

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*yaʔakstał*

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*hahopstał*

–

*hopiitstał*

–

*aʔaʔstał*



**Klecko Klecko**  
**Chi-Miigwetch**  
**Thank you**  
**Merci**



*iisaakstał*

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*yaʔakstał*

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*hahopstał*

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*hopiitstał*

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*aʔaʔstał*