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Abstract title: Engaging and Benefiting Community through Research Projects

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Introduction: In today's world of deadlines, grant stipulations, and tenure track expectations, many researchers focus solely on accomplishing a pre-determined academic agenda. However, there are many additional benefits when academic researchers take onus for scholarly engagement in a community, particularly in the north. Since July 2012, Laurie-Ann Lines, a community member and current graduate student, has worked with Dr. Cindy Jardine on various research projects in the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) in the Canadian Northwest Territories.

Methods: To understand the advantages of incorporating an engaged scholarship approach, we highlighted these practices since 2012. Most projects used a community-based participatory approach through an Indigenous research lens. The various community partners crafted projects so that the community received the most benefit. This included having training and certificates for youth, tangible end-products for families, sharing health information to the community, honoring the youth's accomplishments, providing research training for adults, mentorship in post-secondary, and developing research projects that aligned with community goals and priorities.

Results: Throughout each project, the relationships and benefits with community partners grew in quality and quantity. Existing partnerships expanded as different organization's goals were met and capacity grew in the community. New partnerships began as both communities and researchers increased in understanding of how community priorities and cultural activities could be incorporated into research. Overall, community mentorship in research techniques has made the research more targeted and relevant.

Conclusions: Academics who are committed to engaging communities over short- and long-term courses, propel the progress of mutually beneficial research.