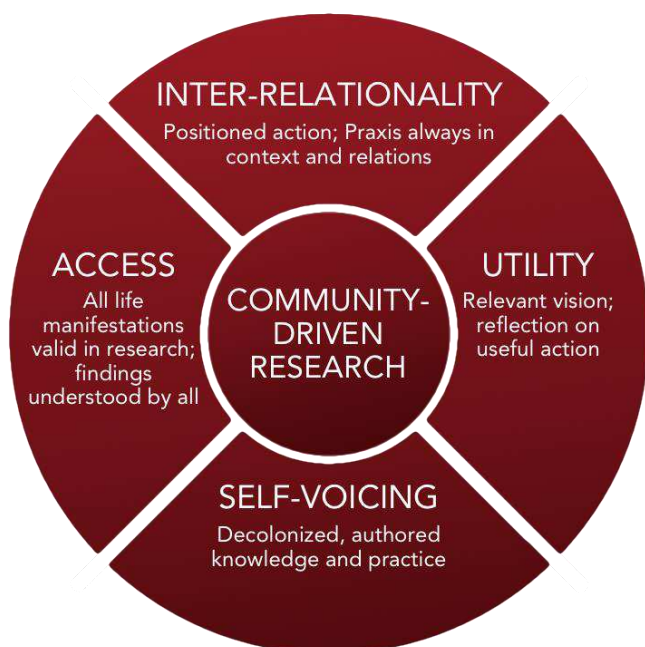


## Research and Evaluation at the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

The Research team works with Friendship Centres on projects and initiatives that respond to needs identified by the community.

The Research team works on a wide range of themes and topics. Examples include: homelessness, poverty reduction, gender-based violence prevention, student well-being, wholistic health, building gender-diverse communities, bail reform, traditional justice, education to employment continuum.

### A community-driven and trauma-informed model



**UTILITY:** Research inquiry must be practical, relevant, and directly benefit communities.

**SELF-VOICING:** Research, knowledge, and practice are authored by communities, which are fully recognized as knowledge holders and knowledge creators

**ACCESS:** Research fully recognizes all local knowledge, practice, and experience in all their cultural manifestations, as accessible by all research authors and knowledge holders

**INTER-RELATIONALITY:** Research is historically-situated, geo-politically positioned, relational, and explicit about the perspective from which knowledge is generated.

**Methods of engagement:** in a community-driven model, communities have full control over the research methods and activities. Examples include: focus groups, interviews, digital storytelling, arts-based activities like painting, land-based activities like medicine walks, cultural activities like hunting, gatherings and teachings, and serving communities in practical ways like serving meals.

### Examples of youth engagement and leadership in research and evaluation projects

- Youth-led Youth Life Promotion program evaluation
- Youth digital storytelling and multimedia research products
- Spring goose hunt with youth and Elders



**Urban Indigenous youth voices and leadership are an integral part of the Friendship Centre Movement. Youth perspectives and ideas are highly valued and are elevated to create tangible and direct changes in communities across Ontario.**