

## Can-Peat - Local Contexts Guide - Drop-in Session Notes (All Sessions)

### 1. Important Notes:

- This is a collection of the notes taken from all 3 Drop-in Sessions (#1 on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, #2 on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, #3 on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>).
- The [Can-Peat Local Contexts Guide](#) (Part 1) is available on the Can-Peat website, along with several appendices.
- Please reach out to the Can-Peat Team ([canpeat@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:canpeat@uwaterloo.ca)) and/or the Indigenous Research Team ([indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca)) for any clarifications or specific questions about the Drop-in Sessions or the Guide. You can also reach out if you would like to book a 1:1 consultation with our team for further discussions.
- Further guidance is forthcoming about the changes to Local Contexts subscription service and what that means for the Can-Peat source project.
- More guidance about how to use the Local Contexts Notice and links in FRDR is forthcoming.
- Part 2 of the Guide, focusing on current and future Indigenous Community research collaborations, will be ready in early 2025.

### 2. This Document Includes the Following Sections: (click to jump to section)

1. [Information Shared from IRT at the Drop-in Sessions](#)
2. [Questions from Drop-in Session #1 - Monday, October 21st](#)
3. [Questions from Drop-in Session #2 - Tuesday, October 29th](#)
4. [Questions from Drop-in Session #3 - Wednesday, November 6th](#)

### 3. Information Shared From the Indigenous Research Team During The Drop-in Sessions:

1. Background on Local Contexts and the Guide
  - [About Local Contexts](#)
  - [Labels in Use](#)
  - About the Guide:
    - Can-Peat is committed to supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty in peatland research. One concrete step that all Can-Peat researchers are encouraged to take is to use the Local Contexts Hub as a tool for identifying the presence of Indigenous data in their peatland research activities. The intention is that researchers will connect to the Can-Peat Source Project in the Local Contexts Hub, generate Notices, and use the Notices and the accompanying API in any public-facing websites where references to the Indigenous Data are being used (i.e., websites, publications, data repositories, other knowledge mobilization efforts, etc.). To assist with these efforts, a comprehensive [Guide](#) has been

created, which contains information geared towards researchers who have already completed data collection or have access to historically gathered data.

2. How the Notices should be used:
  - The Notices are tools for institutions and researchers to identify Indigenous collections and data and recognize Indigenous rights and interests. The Notices were developed to create pathways for partnership, collaboration, and support of Indigenous cultural authority. Notices can be applied to websites, publications, datasets, museum exhibitions, items in a collection, genetic samples, and more. Institutions and researchers can generate Notices using the Local Contexts Hub. There are three categories of Notices: Engagement, Disclosure, and Collections Care Notices.
  - [About Notices](#)
  - [Notice Usage Guides](#)
  - [Notices in Use](#)
3. Part 2 of the Guide
  - Part 1 of the Guide was created for researchers working with existing or historical datasets, and Part 2 of the Guide will provide further guidance for researchers who are working with a specific Indigenous Nation or Community in current and future data collection opportunities.
  - We plan to have Part 2 of the Guide openly available in Early 2025.
4. Our questions for you
  - How is it going getting set up with Local Contexts?
  - Has the guide been helpful?
  - Are there any areas that could be updated or improved?
  - Please know that you can reach out to the Indigenous Research Team ([indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca)) or the Can-Peat Team ([canpeat@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:canpeat@uwaterloo.ca))

#### 4. **Questions from Drop-in Session #1 – Monday, October 21st:**

1. **Question:** You said the guide had been emailed out to us, when would that have been, so I can search for it?
  - **Answer:** The guide was sent to Can-Peat Researchers by email on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> via the Can-Peat email address. The [Guide](#) and its appendices can also be found on the Can-Peat website.
2. **Question:** It says in the Guide (see the glossary section) that Indigenous data includes "land, water, air, soil, geology, plants, animals, etc.", so wouldn't every researcher/project in Can-Peat be working with Indigenous data?
  - **Answer:** Yes, the decision was made that all lands (including peatlands) in this project are Indigenous lands; that all researchers and teams involved in the project can use Local Contexts as a tool for respecting Indigenous data sovereignty in their research activities.
3. **Question:** Who is on the Indigenous Advisory Council?
  - **Answer:** Information about the [Indigenous Advisory Council](#), including members, can be found on the Can-Peat website.

4. **Question:** If a community (for whatever reason) disagrees with how that data is being used, and doesn't want the data to be used in such a way, would that Can-Peat researcher be required to refrain from using the data in that way?
  - **Answer:** We would encourage researchers to understand and respect the concerns, hesitations, and decisions of Indigenous collaborators and Communities, especially regarding their data. This is an important step of respecting Indigenous Data Sovereignty. However, this type of situation doesn't occur often, but should a situation arise, we would invite you to reach out to the Can-Peat Team and Indigenous Research Team so that we can come together to discuss the concerns and make sure that we move forward in a good way, for everyone involved.
  
5. **Question:** Are there any templates or examples for Data Sharing Agreements with Indigenous collaborators?
  - **Answer:** Yes. Some Communities may have their own agreements or templates to follow, and it is a wise practice to use what the Community provides initially. If the Community does not have a template, the Indigenous Research Team can provide some examples. These templates and other related resources will be available in Part 2 of the Guide; in the meantime, please reach out to the Indigenous Research Team for a discussion and access to current examples.
  
6. **Question:** When does Part 2 of the Guide come out?
  - **Answer:** We are working towards early 2025.

## 5. Questions from Drop-in Session #2 - Tuesday, October 29th:

**Note:** This session overlapped with another meeting that many in the Can-Peat network were attending.

1. **Question:** Is this something that I can bring to my other lab mates outside of the Can-Peat project? They also work with Indigenous data.
  - **Answer:** Yes, that's a great idea. We often introduce Local Contexts to many research teams that we consult with, as this is a tool to support working in a respectful way with Indigenous Communities. The entire [Guide](#) is available on the Can-Peat website, so please feel free to share it with whomever may be interested. We also created Appendix Item #3, the [Indigenous Community Collaborators Handout](#), for researchers to be able to introduce Local Contexts to their Indigenous collaborators.
  
2. **Question:** Are there other links or resources you would share for learning more about working with Indigenous data?
  - **Answer:** Yes, there are many resources. For a more tailored approach and specific advice, please contact the Indigenous Research Team.
    - [The First Nations principles of OCAP®](#)
    - [CARE Principles](#)
    - [The National Inuit Strategy on Research](#)
    - [Principles of Ethical Métis Research](#)
    - [The USAI Research Framework \(Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres\)](#)

## 6. Questions from Drop-in Session #3 - Wednesday, November 6th:

### 1. Question:

- **Part 1:** In thinking about introducing Local Contexts to my Indigenous Community partners, is there any way to see what things might look like on their side of the Hub? If they create a profile and begin adding Labels to projects, will they be able to see a list of their Labels? Additionally, would they be able to see a list of the “tagged” (notice applied) projects happening in their territory?
- **Part 2:** What supports might they need along the way, and how might they receive assistance?

### 2. Answer:

- **Part 1:** Yes, Communities can sign up for the Hub, search through existing projects and sub projects and apply their Labels, which would replace any current Notices. While it has these features, it is important to note that the Hub is not a database, and that it is more like a metadata cataloguing tool. Additionally, if you are working directly with your Community collaborators, you can create the project together and add them as collaborators on the project, skipping the Notice step and directly identifying their rights and interests in the data.
- **Part 2:** We hope to provide more information and assistance around this on Part 2 of the Guide, coming early 2025. Should you ever want to connect with the Indigenous Research Team to have a collaborative call to connect and go through questions, please reach out to us and we would be happy connect. Apart from UWaterloo-based supports, you can also reach out to the Local Contexts team, as much of their work involves connecting directly with communities ([support@localcontexts.org](mailto:support@localcontexts.org)).

### 3. Question: Could I add all related projects from my lab under the Can-Peat project? Or should they be somewhere else?

- Yes, you can add your Can-Peat related work under the Can-Peat Source Project on the Local Contexts Hub; if your other work involves peatland data, you are welcome to create a sub project under the Can-Peat source project by following the steps outlined in the Guide. For other work involving other types of data, you may wish to consider creating a separate account or project. We would advise that you connect with your research team to discuss this, as you know your work best. Should you need a 1:1 consultation with the Indigenous Research Team, please feel free to reach out ([indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca))

### 4. Question: Who will have access to the Community’s page or account? Can everybody see all the projects that are associated with their community? Can they put protections in place?

- **Answer:** Yes, there are abilities to put protections in place when setting up their accounts/pages. Local Contexts also offers more Labels for Indigenous Communities as well. For other questions about Community Accounts, visit:
  - The [Support Page](#)
  - The [Downloadable Resources Page](#)
  - The [FAQ Page](#)

We can also connect you to the Local Contexts team who can answer these questions directly and who can help the community get set up.

5. **Question:** Are there existing case studies about Local Contexts? If there aren't any already that discuss/study how this platform helps communities, we would be willing to do this.
- **Answer:** There are a few stories about Communities and their use of Labels, you can find them on Local Contexts' [Labels in Use](#) page. We also think that creating something of your own would be a great idea, and that it would be helpful to this work.
6. **Question:** I don't own the dataset; can I still add and use a Notice?
- **Answer:** Please review the [Data Decision Tree Appendix](#) of the Guide. In this case, you could look into creating a Notice for the publication where you are referencing the data, but not the dataset; in the description spaces you can clearly iterate that the non-Indigenous people who own that data have not given formal permission to use an Open to Collaborate Notice, but that you are doing this as a part of your efforts to support Indigenous Data Sovereignty. You can always reach out to the Can-Peat Team ([canpeat@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:canpeat@uwaterloo.ca)) and the Indigenous Research Team ([indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca)) if you need support.
7. **Question:** How do I build connections with or reach out to the Indigenous Communities whose data I am working with or who might want to know about my work and the data involved?
- **Answer:** When you know which Indigenous Community most likely has rights and interests in the data, one way to reach out is to search for a Band Council website, or Treaty Office; many Communities have Lands and Resources departments. Sending an email (using accessible language) is a great way to start the conversation. It may also be helpful to call the office. If you are unsure which Community may have rights and interests in the data, please reach out to the Can-Peat Team ([canpeat@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:canpeat@uwaterloo.ca)) and the Indigenous Research Team ([indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:indigenous.research@uwaterloo.ca)) to discuss how to approach identifying a potential Community.
8. **Question:** I want to do this work, and do it in a good way, but I don't have a relationship with an Indigenous Community. I'm wondering what my responsibilities are in the context of my research as a MA student, who also doesn't have full control or decision-making power of all aspects of my work and has to work within a shorter timeline.
- **Answer:** This is a great question; building research relationships with an Indigenous Community often takes time, and should be centered in principles of respect, relevance, reciprocity, and responsibility. Thinking about what is in your power to do within your MA timeframe is important. You may be able to reach out to the Community to express general interest in working together, but being open and honest about what you can do. If you have a specific Community mind, it may be helpful to search their websites and platforms that list community interests and important topics. However, collaboration can't be forced, so if there is no interest expressed at this time, it is not wise to force it. If you aren't able to build a relationship during your project, you can also consider making your results more meaningful to wider audiences, including Indigenous Communities, by thinking about how you can use inclusive and accessible knowledge mobilization practices. Feel free to reach out to the Can-Peat team ([canpeat@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:canpeat@uwaterloo.ca)) or Can-Peat's knowledge mobilization specialist Nancy Goucher ([nancy.goucher@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nancy.goucher@uwaterloo.ca)) if you want more support on presenting your work in an accessible way.