

# Successful SSHRC Partnership Grant Writing


**Ghislain Otis PhD, FRSC**

**Canada Research Chair on  
Indigenous People and Legal  
Diversity, University of Ottawa**

Tues Dec 8, 2015

# The State and Indigenous Legal Systems: Law in Search of Legitimacy (2013-2018)


Ghislain Otis, PhD  
University of Ottawa

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- Three regions: Africa, Canada and South Pacific
  - Three topics: family, dispute resolution, land & resources
  - 10 countries
  - 8 major non-academic partners including 6 indigenous organisations from all regions
  - 53 researchers
  - Several languages
  - Several disciplines (anthropology, law, criminology, social work, political science, sociology etc.)
  - Over 4 M funding



# Indigenous Research (IR) in SSHRC Funding Strategy

- IR as a priority area: decolonizing research by empowering indigenous communities and individuals in the field of knowledge creation and mobilisation, bridging the gap between academia and indigenous people
- IR defined: research by and with Indigenous people (shared leadership, design, training, knowledge production and mobilisation etc.)
- The diverse roles of Indigenous people within a partnership
  - i- Organisations: partner, contributor
  - ii- Individuals: project director or co-director, advisor, investigator, collaborator, research coordinator, research staff, postdoc, student, technician, translator, participant etc.



## AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP: « *If you want to go fast, travel alone. If you want to go far, travel together* »

- What is a partnership? (common and equal undertaking based on shared interests, objectives and resources)
- Why a partnership? *To harness the transformative dynamic of synergy* (create a new collective capacity through collaboration)
- Who can be a partner? (a Canadian or international indigenous or non-indigenous organisation with a demonstrated commitment and ability to contribute to the proposed undertaking and to benefit from it) *What can I contribute? What's in it for me?*
- What can and must a partner do? (plan, design, facilitate, support and/or execute research, training, dissemination)
- What makes a partnership effective?
  - i- Previous experience of fruitful collaboration;
  - ii- Optimal fit of partners' experience, expertise and resources (the perfect team);
  - v- Realistic ambitions and relevant output (know your strengths and your limitations);
  - iii- Strong and clearly focused motivation on the part of partners;
  - iv- Clear understanding and acceptance of all partnership duties (scientific, financial, administrative);
  - vi- Clear and explicit partnership agreement.



A FOCUSED, EXCITING AND REALISTIC PROPOSAL: « *What are we going to achieve and why does it matter?* »

- A proposal that addresses a limited number of well-identified, urgent or pressing research needs of Indigenous people, including Indigenous partners;
- A moderate number of original research objectives;
- A straightforward and effective conceptual or theoretical framework;
- A precise and reliable methodology;
- A well-circumscribed output with measurable impact with respect to research, training and dissemination;
- An tightly integrated proposal, that is, a strong correlation of objectives, activities, methodology, expertise, resources and planned output;
- A realistic timeline;
- Substantial financial commitment on the part of team members.



# THE KEY ISSUE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- SSHRC's requirement of 35% self-funding, in practice most proposals far exceed this minimum.
- Contributions from Indigenous partners or contributors:
  - i- They are key to the credibility of the partnership;
  - ii- They can be primarily or exclusively in-kind;
  - iii- They can be substantial if the project plugs into the existing programs of an organisation to which funding is already committed or can more easily be committed (so that no substantial amount of fresh cash is needed).
- Contribution from the lead institution (substantial part in cash).
- Contributions from other team members.