



## Access Alliance **Multicultural Community Health Centre**

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### **Statement of Values and Principles Guiding Research at Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre**

Access Alliance is committed to engaging in and enabling community-based research (CBR) that will contribute to helping diverse individuals and communities achieve health with dignity. In addition to adhering to accepted ethical standards, any research conducted by or involving Access Alliance will strive to incorporate the following principles:

#### **Community Benefit**

CBR is research conducted *by* and *for* communities. Its purpose is to bring about positive social change, particularly around the reduction of health disparities. That change may include improvements in service delivery, policy outcomes and/or empowerment of individuals and communities to gain control over the factors that affect their health and to take action to address them.

To increase the likelihood that the results will be of use to communities, we believe that the people whom the research is intended to benefit should have opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in all phases of the research. We are also committed to ensuring that any findings are shared and made accessible to participants as well as to service providers and policy-makers who can use the findings to inform their decision-making.

#### **Capacity-Building**

Through the CBR process, it is possible to build sustainable capacities within communities for inquiry and transformation. We are committed to meaningfully engaging staff and community members in designing, conducting, interpreting and applying research so that in the process, they may build their knowledge, skills and sense of agency. We also support and encourage critical reflection and the documentation of lessons learned.

#### **Collaboration and Inclusion**

Diversity and inclusion enrich our communities and agencies and improve the quality and relevance of research. We value collaborative learning and believe that every participant in the research process, whether a community member, staff or academic, has something unique to contribute. We invite community participation as early as possible in the CBR process and are committed to identifying and addressing the barriers that impede meaningful community participation in all phases of the research. The language and methods used in the conduct of research must be broadly accessible to the diverse range of participants.

#### **Equity and Dignity**

We believe that every individual has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and that all people should have equitable opportunities and access to the determinants of health. We prioritise research that aims to redress health disparities by furthering the understanding of and addressing the social determinants of health affecting the vulnerable populations with whom we work. In addition, we strive for CBR processes that are themselves free from oppression and discrimination.