



**The Research Ethics & Compliance Office** oversees the ethical conduct and decision-making in clinical and health research projects that use human participants, materials and information. Together with Island Health REBs, Operational Review, and Research Compliance, we aim to build capacity in ethics, integrity, and compliance through educating, advising, research, policy and guidance development, and administration. Since March 1, 2020 the office and REBs have reviewed 2863 research study events and activities\*.

Our office is based in the territories of the ləkʷəŋən speaking Coast Salish Peoples and the SENĆOTEN speaking WSÁNEĆ People. Our work impacts research conducted across Island Health, with many Indigenous communities, Nations, and Peoples. We are committed in our work to enacting the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with cultural safety and humility.

### Approach

Our work is grounded in a commitment that ‘Research is Care,’ which speaks to Island Health C.A.R.E. values, This is articulated through ethically-driven research that centres participants who come from diverse communities. We serve these participants using the principles of Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice (TCPS2).

### Alignment

Our priorities are informed by Island Health’s Five Year Strategic Framework as well as the planning and strategic direction provided within the Island Health Research department.

This framework is guided by a commitment to demonstrating cultural humility in our ways of being, by addressing Indigenous-specific racism and bias, unmet access needs, avoidable variation and harm, workforce capacity and wellness, accountability and adaptability, and disparities in population health and health inequities.

<b>Goal 1:</b> Improve the experience, quality, and outcomes of health and care services for patients, clients, and families	<b>Goal 3:</b> Increase health system value and ensure the sustainability of health and care services
<b>Objective 1.4:</b> Care will be driven by best practice, evidence, and data to achieve the highest level of quality and safety.	<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Island Health will drive innovation and research to improve outcomes for people, care teams, and communities.

### Assignment

Our work this year will focus on the following priorities:

<h4>Policies and Procedures</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish REB SOP review schedule in alignment with Policy and Document Management System</li> <li>Review and edit Post Approval Activity forms; publish these to ROMEO</li> <li>Establish a development and workflow process for Policy and Guidance Notes in alignment with the organization</li> <li>Support programs and departments in adapting their workflows for Operational Review</li> </ul>	<h4>Training</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create and maintain a list of training and education opportunities</li> <li>Create three Methods of Procedure for RECO staff</li> <li>Develop and offer Lunch and Learn events starting January 2024</li> </ul>	<h4>Communication</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Research Ethics ListServe for direct mailing</li> <li>Create and implement shared drive architecture</li> <li>Formalize standard language for REB review</li> </ul>
<h4>Reporting</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to continuous improvement with scheduled audits and data cleaning</li> <li>Publish a searchable Excel active studies list on the Research Ethics &amp; Compliance website</li> <li>Connect with senior leadership by providing and presenting reports</li> </ul>	<h4>Office</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the online portal by adapting and upgrading</li> <li>Provide access to programs tools by reviewing work processes</li> <li>Update office space and equipment to ensure that it is safe and healthy for increased use</li> </ul>	<h4>Education</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an REB education event for Island Health REBs</li> <li>Create a 'how to access' guide for education and training, including the CREB member manual</li> <li>Increase knowledge of Excel within the office</li> </ul>
		<h4>Other</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in-person events</li> <li>Improve access to staff and connect with researchers</li> </ul>

\*Study events and activities refers to new initial research study applications, post approval activities including amendments, acknowledgments, renewals, closures for both Island Health only research AND multijurisdictional or harmonized provincial research studies submitted up until March 30, 2023.