

CIRNAC Access to Information


CRU Working Group Update

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- CIRNAC required Claims researchers to provide the following before sharing file lists:
 - Detailed description of claim against Canada
 - Description of information requested and why it's required
 - Verification that information will not be disclosed to FN
 - One claim per 8(2)(k) despite authorizing BCR
 - Information must not be shared within same organization
- These file lists help researchers identify and place targeted informal requests.



These unilateral changes were implemented by CIRNAC without consultation with First Nations or the existing CRU working group.



Government Overreach

- Researchers already provide BCR
- Nothing in 8(2)(k) which mandates FNs to disclose this information to Canada
- Canada is defendant in First Nations' historical claims
- May harm a First Nation's interests if researchers comply and disclose information



Impacts to Research

Researchers are concerned about:

- Delays obtaining files, stalling research progress
- Negative effects on future funding (tied to research progress)
- Further erosion of trust between First Nations and Canada
- Another barrier to First Nations' access to justice
- Lack of openness and transparency by Canada also characterizes current review of *Privacy Act* by Department of Justice.
- Possible removal of 8(2)(k) provision, making substantiating claims impossible.



Since May, 2023...