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Interagency Advisory Panel
on Research Ethics

Groupe consultatif interagences
en éthique de la recherche

Ottawa, Canada
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Memorandum

To: Vice-Presidents Research
Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CAURA)
Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB)
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR)
Association of Canadian Medical Schools
Health Canada, Health Sciences Policy Division

From: Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics

Date: November 1, 2003

Subject: Call for Comments on a Proposal for a TCPS Implementation Feedback Framework

This is an invitation to participate in a public consultation on a proposal developed by the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) regarding the implementation of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*¹ (TCPS) in institutions funded by the three granting Agencies in which research with human subjects is being conducted. The deadline for receiving written submissions on the proposed *TCPS Implementation Feedback Framework* (TIFF) is **November 30, 2003**.

The Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics² is a body of external experts established in November 2001 by Canada's three Federal Granting Agencies - the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) - to support the development and evolution of their joint research ethics policy, the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS). PRE provides independent and multi-disciplinary advice to the Agencies on the evolution, interpretation, educational and implementation needs of the TCPS.

¹ <http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/policystatement/policystatement.cfm>

² For further information about the PRE, its mandate, and its place in Canada's evolving TCPS governance structure, please see <http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/aboutus/mandate.cfm>

Optimal implementation of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS)* advances the protection of human research participants, accountability in research ethics and public trust in human research. So, how is the TCPS implemented? What are the practices, challenges, contexts and results of its use? What education initiatives or other strategies yield effective implementation by REBs, researchers and institutions?

To respond to such questions, to support and to promote the implementation of the TCPS, as well as to identify the needs and strategies for evolution for the TCPS, PRE's Task Force on Implementation has developed a proposal for gaining information on the implementation of the TCPS in Agency-funded institutions; it invites you to provide your comments on the proposal, *TCPS Implementation Feedback Framework (TIFF)*. The attached document provides the rationale for the proposal, the background as well as the outline of the proposed framework. PRE has adopted in principle the TIFF as a tool that it recommends to the Agencies and the research community for understanding the implementation of the TCPS and for assisting in its further evolution and development. PRE seeks input from the broad research community before making recommendations to the three granting Agencies regarding the initial implementation of such a framework.

PRE's Task Force on Implementation welcomes your written commentary on these and other issues that you believe are important to consider in this context. Please send your written comments to TDG@pre.ethics.gc.ca or fax to (613) 996-7117 **by November 30, 2003**. PRE thanks you for your input in this process.