10 TIPS for Engagement with Indigenous Partners

1. Understand the historical and current colonial context and how this impacts Indigenous communities and your own power and privilege.

2. Engagement with Indigenous peoples should be on a nation-to-nation basis. This includes holding distinct engagement sessions.

3. Engagement should be mutually beneficial and consider the values and priorities of both SSHA and Indigenous communities and organizations.

4. Engagement should do no harm and benefit Indigenous communities.

“Nothing about us without us.” Policy and program development should be Indigenous-led or co-created in recognition of Indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination.

5. Engagement should begin early and continue throughout all stages of your project.

6. Engagement is not outcome-based and will not necessarily result in Indigenous peoples supporting your work.

7. Community engagement is a must. There is no one individual who represents the collective opinions of Indigenous peoples.

8. Good engagement is a process that focuses on relationship building.

9. Be clear and transparent about time and resource constraints.
