Remuneration and Reciprocity in Research with Marginalized Populations

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OBJECTIVE
To suggest best practices for reciprocity and ethical remuneration for research with marginalized populations and adults with altered capacity.

ARGUMENTATION
• Framing human participant research as a partnership of mutual benefit is central to key principles of ethics, equity and justice.¹
• Exact value of remuneration and other means of reciprocity should be context-specific and ideally co-created by the researchers and the community being researched.
• Reciprocity extends beyond remuneration and emphasizes the importance of community benefit throughout and beyond research involvement.²

COMPONENTS OF ETHICAL REMUNERATION AND RECIPROCITY

REMUNERATION
• Prioritize cash compensation for all participants commensurate with project goals and risks.
• Integrate community voices in determining compensation for the time, effort, and expertise offered by participants.
• Incorporate non-traditional means of compensation (e.g., refreshments, Indigenous gift-giving).

RECIPROCITY
• Establish rapport with community partners prior to recruitment of participants.
• Co-create and seek community approval of research methods prior to REB approval.
• Host Knowledge Dissemination events for the researched community.
• Implement meaningful change based on research results.

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Rubin, M., Young, M. ... Boyle, Q., Illes, J ..., Equity in clinical care and research involving persons with disorders of consciousness (In prep).

References:
1. Boilevin et al., Research 101: A Manifesto for Ethical Research in the Downtown Eastside, 2019