

## Consultation approach

### Encourage MEETINGS and participation; How to interact?

The consultation and collection of testimonies related to history and culture always remain a sensitive issue, especially when a people has been subjected to colonizing and racist actions for decades, even centuries. Every individual has experienced his or her own set of negative situations and is not equally open to sharing knowledge and insights. This makes it all the more important to be clear about the purpose of our research, even if we are working towards a community goal to be conducted in-house, by people sharing the same culture, the same community. The Founding principles section includes methods and tools from an ethical and moral standpoint.

On a relational level, here are some suggestions to encourage dialogue.

Build trust human relations:

- Clearly expressing **the intentions of the consultation and collection project**, demonstrating **absolute transparency** is key;
- **Respect commitments**, those established in the official forms but also those made verbally during meetings. If expectations are created, it is important to meet them;
- **Be attentive** to others, **without imposing a relationship** because **trust** is developed and established over time. The bond of trust is strengthened with time, through the gradually developed reputation of the project and its implementation;
- **Allow others to express their queries and concerns**, if need be. Suggest solutions and/or explain existing processes and precautions that address them.

Qualities and attitudes to foster:

- **Be authentic**, true to yourself and empathetic;
- **Be at ease**, because the worst obstacle is embarrassment! Humour, authenticity and humility are attitudes that foster good relationships;
- **Act in accordance with local customs**, it is important to show respect for the community and Nation that welcomes you;
- **Be positive**;
- **Be present-minded**, live the experience, be attentive and interact in a spontaneous and coherent manner regarding the comments of others;
- **Be open to what others are saying**, have kind intentions and be non-judgmental;
- **Accept silences**, allow others to develop their thoughts and give them time to do so. Once they state that they have nothing more to add, a few related questions may be asked.

