**Steps: Participatory Co-Design for Indigenous AI Projects**

**Step 1: Relationship Building**

* Research, seek permissions, and know the background cultural context of the community.
* Spend time with the community before introducing technology.
* Use culturally respectful introductions.
* Establish community trust through long-term engagement, rather than relying solely on short-term data collection.

**Step 2: Co-Design Use Cases**

* Host focus group discussions with elders, youth, women, and traditional leaders.
* Use visual and oral methods (such as storyboards, sketches, proverbs, and songs) to elicit needs and ideas.
* Let the community define the problem, not just react to external definitions.

**Step 3: Ethical Data Collection**

* Collect oral histories, songs, and stories using FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent).
* Ensure data sovereignty through community control and ownership.
* Respect limitations or refusals of access to sacred places, sites, or knowledge.

**Step 4: Build the Prototype Together**

* Design and develop localized AI systems that utilize local languages and dialects
* Consult community members in choosing names, icons, and features.
* Organize workshops in the community for training and testing the prototype
* Test the prototype with locally available devices

**Step 5: Feedback Loops**

* Encourage feedback through locally established communication mechanisms such as village gatherings, the Chief’s baraza, and person-to-person proximity-based sharing.
* Hold regular check-in meetings with the community to adjust the tool as needed.