

Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting

October 18-19, 2022

Wendake, QC - Hybrid Meeting (day 1)

Meeting Objectives

For IAC to discuss phase two work for assessing impacts on rights advice and emerging issues from workplanning including: Committee reporting, Circle of Experts (CoE) work to date, and input on Agency specific guidance.

Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks

The meeting began with a cultural welcome and an opening prayer from an Indigenous Elder. An Agency official provided Agency updates including updates on Agency organizational changes. The Co-Chair welcomed a new IAC member and provided an overview of the meeting objectives for day one. Co-Chairs provided several updates on recent events they participated in including:

- Co-Chair presentation at Agency's Senior Management Committee to provide a progress report on 2021-22 priorities and the application to Agency work;
- One day learning event with Canada Energy Regulator, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Transportation Agency to discuss Indigenous Advisory Committees in general; and,
- Update on ECCC's Indigenous Voices Series to promote what Indigenous science is and how it applies to ECCC's work;

Agenda item: Circle of Experts Update

A CoE/IAC member provided members with a milestone check in on the CoE progress and meetings to date where members discussed Terms of Reference, workplanning and objectives. An overview was also provided on CoE membership and key themes including: vision, stewardship and governance, capacity and readiness as well as powers, duties and functions. IAC members discussed several key issues including:

- Timelines: Ambitious to have discussion paper ready this winter
- Capacity: Need for core funding including training and funding to support IA processes in communities.
- IAC engagement: IAC members were keen to review CoE draft chapters when available and suggested 1-2 short one-hour breakout sessions to provide IAC collective feedback.

Agenda item: Indigenous Knowledge Policy Products in IA

Agency officials updated members on progress for IK Policy Products in IA including:

- Agency confidentiality guidance on Indigenous Knowledge which will align with the current approach;
- External and internal Frequently Asked Questions and Best Practices document which IAC members provided feedback on;
- Template for a letter to document approach for confidential Indigenous Knowledge;
- Information practices for Indigenous Knowledge; and,
- Technical guidance on Indigenous Knowledge in Impact Assessment

Agency officials engaged IAC on the path forward of engagement plan for future Indigenous Knowledge technical guidance which would cover areas not address by other policy products/guidance in development such as Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making and collection and analysis of Indigenous Knowledge. IAC members highlighted several key themes including:

- Terminology: Being explicated about why Agency isn't using certain terms such as "integrate" and reflecting this in the guidance, stronger language reflected in documents;
- Engagement Approach: ensuring regional and National Indigenous Organizations not typically engaged are at the table;
- Western Science: ensuring this is as vigorously documented as Indigenous Knowledge.

It was decided the Agency would circulate a draft engagement approach for IAC feedback via email for members consideration/feedback.

Agenda item: Indigenous Knowledge and Science Joint Sub-Committee Deliverable

The Co-Chair walked through the path forward for a joint deliverable with the IAC/TAC joint sub-committee on Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science. The preferred option identified is providing advice on bringing together the worldviews or considering the two side by side in the IA decision-making process. An overview was provided of the format of the deliverable which could help lay out the thinking behind the decision (i.e. how do you look at IK and Science and make an equitable analysis; how do you come to conclusions and incorporate these worldviews, not just data), and serve as a tool that could be used for Agency products including the IA Report and Memo to Minister. A table tool was presented as a model that could be used as phase one of this work.

Members discussed the governance and structure of the joint sub-committee. One Champion and four IAC members were identified to sit on the joint sub-committee in addition to the two TAC members. IAC and TAC members are asked to identify any experts that could potentially be brought in for an initial meeting to focus the scope of discussion. Subsequent meetings would focus on work planning and drafting a table of contents which would be circulated to IAC for feedback.

Some members were interested in further learning about Agency internal processes to do assessments, specifically designations and the early planning phase. Co-Chairs will discuss further with the Agency on this topic.

Agenda item: Emerging Issues- Indigenous Perspectives on the Impact Assessment of Canada's Framework for Tracking and Reporting on Follow-up Programs

An Agency official presented the Agency's Follow-up Framework for Tracking and Reporting on follow-up Programs including engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the post decision-making phase with the objective of engaging IAC on any gaps or additional items to be considered. Members identified several issues including:

- Proponents self-monitoring without the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge;
- Capacity – Participant Funding Program is an over-subscribed program, proving core funding and training, funding needs to be reflective of activities being undertaken and updated on an annual basis; and,
- Need for Indigenous Peoples to be involved in shared decision-making

Agenda item: Emerging Issues Committee Evaluation Update

The Co-Chair walked through proposed approach of analyzing existing meeting summaries, reports, advice and Agency responses to advice, and include interviews with members of the IAC and key Agency representatives in order to highlight progress made in order to identify potential areas for process improvement.

- Members would like to look at distinctions based perspectives during the analysis for the report.
- Members concurred with the suggestions Co-chairs work with the IAC Secretariat providing direction and input.
- Drafts would be brought back to IAC for feedback at future meetings.

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October 19, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (day 2)

Agenda item: Assessing Impacts on Rights (IoR) Sub-Committee work update

IoR sub-committee Champion provided overview of direction for phase two work building on the principles to develop operational guidance to proponents with regards to Impacts on Rights Assessment. Members discussed success stories about proponents working with communities to identify impact on rights including an example from Coastal Gas link pipeline and collaboration with local Indigenous communities for fish and waterway protection. Members also discussed areas proponents seem to struggle with the most which included:

- Understanding the concept of UNDRIP;
- Understanding the definition of rights (beyond bio-physical)
- Understanding who to engage with;
- Information sharing at the beginning of the process; and,
- Determining cultural rights compensation.

Next steps: IoR sub-committee to share draft with IAC at January meeting.

Agenda item: Emerging Issues- Training on Impact Assessment for Proponents and Federal Authorities

An Agency official provided background on the Training Program that is designed to provide information or training to facilitate the application of the act, facilitate efficiency IAs and increase meaningful participation. Agency will launch work with Indigenous partners to develop the Indigenous Learning Series and can provide updates to the IAC as work progresses.

Members highlighted key themes including:

- Providing more information to Indigenous communities in the pre-planning phase;
- Providing templates for memorandum of understanding;
- Terminology – not using term Indigenous groups;
- Ensuring distinctions-based perspectives on working group; and,
- Understanding treaty and non-treaty differences in communities.

Agenda item: Looking at Community Health Through a More Holistic Lens

Guest speaker Dr. Diana Lewis presented her research that integrates Indigenous relational worldviews with environmental assessment and health risk assessment with an opportunity for members to ask questions and see practical example of integration of Indigenous and Western ways of knowing for future health risk and environmental assessment policy development.

Agenda Item: Committee Business

Members reviewed the calendar and workplan for the year including the possibility for an additional in-person meeting in January.

Indigenous Advisory Committee Meeting October 18-19 2022, Action items

Members

- **IK Policy Products in Impact Assessment:** Review and provide feedback via email on Draft Engagement plan for Technical Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge in Impact Assessment. (early January/prior to January meeting)
- Provide examples of IK case studies and/or examples with two world views/success stories to sub committee (November 10)
- **IK/Science Joint sub-Committee:** Champion (Sue) to work with Secretariat to start process of cadence of meetings and workplanning. IAC members: Angel, Julia, Jocelyn. TAC members: Helga and Allistaire
 - All members are welcome to provide names of any IK experts to Secretariat and/or Champion
- Review training materials via email (date TBC 2 weeks)

Secretariat

- IK Policy Products send to members the engagement plan (expected Dec)
- Circulate Agency Organizational chart (complete)
- Circulate links to additional training learning tools.
- **CoE:** Set up breakout groups to review draft chapters (late fall)
- **Committee Evaluation:** Co-Chairs ongoing work with Secretariat on this work and report back on progress at January meeting.
- Circulate updated meeting calendar with sub-cttee dates.
- Review workplan, and seek Agency approval for additional in-person (January)
- Set up meeting with Agency and Co-Chairs to refine intent for sharing information on Agency internal processes.

Attendees

IAC Co-Chairs

Kyle Vermette
Sue Chiblow

IAC Committee Members

Paul Jones
Angel Ransom
Jocelyn Gosselin
Suzie O'Bomsawin
Julia Jennings-Francis
Derrick Pottle
Stanley Oliver
Melody Lepine

Impact Assessment Agency

Brent Parker
Ian Ketcheson
Deborah Quaicoe
Alice Tremblay
Erin Gilmer
Carolyn Dunn
Emily Fairbairn
Janice Zeitz

MINAC Member

Dr. Diana Lewis

Regrets

Elmer Ghostkeeper
Rachel Olson