

## **Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting**

May 3, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (day 1)

---

### **Meeting Objectives**

For IAC to focus on workplanning for the year ahead and for members to provide feedback on draft Principles to guide the assessment of Indigenous Rights.

### **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 the Ministers Advisory Council on Impact Assessments potential areas for recommendation for their upcoming report including climate change and Indigenous perspectives. The Co-Chair provided an overview of the meeting objectives for day one.

### **Agenda item: Indigenous Cooperation Regulations Engagement - Circle of Experts update**

An Agency official provided members with an update on the status and planning for the first Indigenous Circle of Experts meeting and sought IAC feedback on next steps for the development of the discussion paper on the Indigenous Cooperation Regulations centred around three themes: Stewardship and governance, what goes into agreements/dispute resolutions, and , Powers, duties and functions. IAC members determined their role in relation to the circle including:

- Desire to have a relationship model with an initial meeting for introductions;
- Interest in presenting workplans and deliverables including the collaboration agreement template which could inform the CoE's work;
- Milestone check ins with IAC representative providing updates during standing Agenda item at IAC meetings or ad hoc; and,
- Endorsement of the CoE's final discussion paper

### **Agenda item: Assessing Impacts on Rights Sub-Committee work**

The sub-committee Champion presented the final draft document to IAC for feedback. Currently, principles have been identified and the work is focused on making them more operational. IAC members had a breakout session to provide final feedback on draft principles, thinking about challenges for proponents, distinctions-based realities, and supplemental resources to support the understanding and implementation of the Principles. Members provided the following recommendations on the draft Principles for Proponents to Guide the Assessment of Impacts on Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- Ethical Space – ensuring this is captured in the document;
- Indigenous languages - Inclusion of a short paragraph to ensure values are appropriately reflected;
- Suggestion to add “in-tangible” to capture spiritual and non-biophysical aspects;

- Addition of more substance to section on UN Declaration provisions;
- Indigenous governance – sharing more about this in the document;
- Resources – building on repository of knowledge and ensuring methodology lines up.

The final Draft Principles document will be shared with IAC members in June/July and endorsement will be sought via email.

### **Agenda item: Re-cap of February committee meeting**

The Co-Chair provided a re-cap of the priority areas ranked by members at the last IAC meeting using the Slido tool including:

1. Further work on Indigenous Knowledge (IK)– advice on tools to support practitioners dealing with IK
2. Further work on assessing impacts on rights including finalizing current principles; and,
3. Discussion on emerging issues – flexible time dedicated as needed to emerging/challenging issues.

### **Agenda item: Priority Setting 2022-23**

An Agency official provided additional context on three proposed priority areas for the development of formal advice. These three areas have been informed by discussions with the Committee and internal Agency discussions.

- 1) **Further work on Indigenous Knowledge** - review of IK policy products including draft confidentiality templates.
  - Advice to the Agency on the approach to co-development of technical guidance. This broader policy will be on IK provisions i.e. IK and Science, IK in decision-making and IK in follow-up and enforcement.
  - Joint discussions with the Technical Advisory Committee will inform potential future work on IK and Science in IA.
- 2) **Further work on assessing impacts to rights** – finalizing phase 1 (high level principles to inform proponents on early engagement with, and support for Indigenous communities to prepare for impacts on Rights Assessment).
  - Phase 2 could build on these principles to produce advice to proponents with regards to key deliverables and expectations.
- 3) **Emerging issues** – IAC to provide feedback which Agency incorporates and provides disposition table to indicate how IAC feedback was incorporated. Preferred areas of focus included:
  - **Indigenous Cooperation Regulations** - CoE milestone check ins through the form of a standing Agenda item
  - **Review of Agency policies** – i.e. Review of a Policy context Piece on Ethics in IA and review draft “follow-up Framework” for how the Agency will track and report on proponent project-specific follow up programs, feedback on best practices for consultation.

- **Review of Agency training** – Review of existing Agency IA training, including observations on other needs, e.g. Indigenous Awareness training

### **Agenda item: Workplanning**

The Co-Chair led a discussion with members to determine an approach to move forward on the three priority areas.

- 1) **Approach for Further work on Indigenous Knowledge** – Members decided to review the confidentiality templates by Summer 2022 via email. Breakout sessions would be held in the Fall to inform the feedback on the broader technical guidance. Members decided to tentatively plan on setting up a sub-committee on IK and Science following discussion with the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge.
- 2) **Further work on assessing impacts to rights** – Phase two of this work would build on established principles to create advice for proponents with regards to key deliverables and expectations. IAC could build on the identified principles with guidance around methodology. Members decided this would continue through a sub-committee with a contractor supporting this work. Currently sub-committee members invited to continue on, if interested, and new members were encouraged to submit their names to the Champion. The Agency will find a contractor to support the sub-committees work for phase two.
- 3) **Emerging issues – Dedicated time on Agenda to discuss specific issues as needed.**
  - Circle of Experts work on discussion paper –Milestone check-ins 3-4 times through a standing agenda item.
  - Periodic review of Agency policy and/or training materials would be done through breakout sessions over the next six months.
  - Committee evaluation – assessing achievements/high level process evaluation to be carried out by a contractor.

### **Agenda item: Wrap-up and next steps**

The Co-Chair provided a re-cap of action –items noting meeting sequencing for the upcoming year. An overview was provided for the joint meeting with the TAC focusing on IK and Science discussions and hearing from the Agency’s President on Priorities for the coming year. The meeting ended with a closing prayer from and Indigenous Elder.



## **Indigenous Advisory Committee**

Action Items from May 3, 2022

### Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting summary for Members to review and finalize;
- Re-circulate MINAC Report
- Draft 2022-23 workplan
- Send members placeholder for the year (1 additional in-person and 2 virtual meetings)
- *Evaluation – discuss approach with co-chairs and engage consultant to support this work*

### Members' Action-items:

- Review meeting summary;
- Those on IoR to confirm their ability to continue on phase 2, new members are welcome please inform Secretariat due to the departure of Deana Sappier.
- The IoR subcommittee will integrate feedback from members and a final version will be distributed for final endorsement.

**Attendees**

***IAC Co-Chairs***

Kyle Vermette

***IAC Committee Members***

Paul Jones

Rachel Olson

Angel Ransom

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Stanley Oliver

Derrick Pottle

Elmer Ghostkeeper

Melody Lepine

***Impact Assessment Agency***

Brent Parker

Susan Winger

Janice Zeitz

Emily Fairbairn

***Regrets***

Sue Chiblow

Jocelyn Gosselin