

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

February 14-16 2022

Virtual Meeting (day 1)

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### **Meeting Objectives**

For IAC to endorse final products for the Indigenous Knowledge policy products and the Collaboration Agreement Model, as well as having a discussion on the Impacts on Rights work and beginning priority setting for 22/23.

### **Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks**

The meeting began with a cultural welcome and an opening prayer from an Indigenous Elder. The Co-Chair provided opening remarks, recognizing the departure of one member and appointment of a new member, all members were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

### **Agenda item: Recent updates on Agency work**

The Ex-Officio member provided an update on recent Agency work, including the Minister's Advisory Council on Impact Assessment (MINAC). The Council's last meeting focused on regional assessment and strategic assessment and the related Policy Framework. The IAC is expected to have two in-person/hybrid meetings next year. The Secretariat is working towards an in-person meeting in Vancouver to align with the IAIA Conference in May. Virtual options will also be available.

### **Agenda item: Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework Update**

An Agency official updated members on progress from the comment period noting the majority of the changes are highlighted in the context section including: greater emphasis on UN Declaration provisions, the addition of Canada's history of colonialism as well as stronger language used throughout the document. The Agency engaged IAC on the approach to include Indigenous voices in the Framework in the form of quotes and to discuss the highlighted revisions. Members highlighted the following topics:

- Structure of document – consider highlighting principles at the start before the context section;
- Revisit FPIC wording to emphasize the importance of ensuring that there is effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples in the decision-making process; and,
- Choose positive over negative phrasing of what federal officials will not do regarding Indigenous Knowledge.

### **Agenda item: Indigenous Knowledge Policy Products**

An Agency official presented final drafts and walked through IAC's track changes to the documents. Members suggested timeframes be removed from the FAQs Indigenous Knowledge in Impact Assessment document. Members decided they have had sufficient time to provide their input.

### **Agenda item: Wrap-up and plan for day 2**

The Co-Chair appreciated the Agency's responsiveness to IAC comment and forthcoming opportunities to discuss challenging recommendations.

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Virtual Meeting (day 2)

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### **Presentation on Draft Model Collaboration Agreement Template**

A Collaboration Agreement Sub-Committee member provided an overview on work to date on the draft collaboration agreement between Indigenous Peoples and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. Members decided to discuss initial thoughts on the draft collaboration template in more detail at the beginning of day 3. An Agency official provided members with an overview on areas that were challenging or inconsistent with the Agency Framework including the role of the proponent. It was suggested that the purpose and objectives of the model collaboration agreement could be clarified up front in the agreement.

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

A consultant presented the draft IAC principles to guide the assessment of Indigenous Rights which included 7 themes: awareness of rights, protection of rights, understand governance, role of Indigenous Knowledge, engagement and consultation, assessment process and Reconciliation. Members highlighted the following points on the draft:

- Language must not be prescriptive;
- Could be re-framed to ask communities questions on what federal officials need to know;
- Importance of reciprocal understanding (variance in community capacity/understanding of what rights based assessment is).

### **Agenda item: Indigenous Cooperation Regulations Update**

An Agency official provided an update on the Indigenous Cooperation regulations engagement. The circle of experts (CoE) nominations are nearing completion and an IAC member will be participating on the CoE, other IAC members may also attend as guests. The COE meetings will be thematic focusing on governance, past engagement, introducing the cooperation regulations and providing an overview of policies, processes and tools of the Impact Assessment Act. It was noted that the Agency will share regular updates from the CoE with IAC as a whole.

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

February 16, 2022

Virtual Meeting (day 3)

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### **Agenda item: Recap of 2021-22 priorities**

An Agency official provided a brief recap of committee priorities including Indigenous Knowledge, Collaboration Agreements and assessing impacts on Rights, noting what advice the Agency was not able to incorporate that could inform workplanning for IAC next year. Some of these challenges could continue to be topics of discussion in the future through the collaboration sub-committee such as the role of the proponent and further language on the purpose of the collaboration agreement. Indigenous Knowledge advice to consider elsewhere includes explanation of the consideration of western science in IA and complex topics such as methodology and research which could be captured in potential forthcoming technical guidance.

### **Agenda item: Workplanning**

The Ex-Officio member highlighted proposed topics that would be useful to the Agency's work in the coming year as well as meaningful to IACs work including:

1. Cooperation Regulations – continue to work with CoE.
2. Collaboration models – further work to expand scope into practical considerations; and looking at other specific models
3. Continuing work on assessing impacts on rights
4. IK policy products: Confidentiality templates to review and provide input, potential to co-develop technical guidance.
5. Emerging Issues could include Committee Evaluation Report of work to date, the Agency's Reconciliation Framework and advice on Agency-developed training for internal staff and proponents on impacts to rights, Indigenous knowledge etc.

### **Agenda item: Workplanning discussion (Cont'd)**

The Co-Chair led a discussion with members to establish preferred priority areas of focus. The importance of scoping for all of these areas was noted. Members agreed to focus on two main priority areas:

- Impacts on Rights: advice to proponents with regards to key deliverables and expectations; and
- Indigenous Knowledge: Confidentiality templates to review and provide input; potentially initiate co-development work on the technical guidance.

Members also discussed which items could be addressed during the “emerging issues” dedicated time, for when challenging issues are brought forward by the Agency and/or Committee. Members’ top preferences included:

- Further work on collaboration; and
- Review of Agency training

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

The Co-Chair provided a brief re-cap on action items and timelines to provide additional feedback. The meeting ended with a closing prayer from an Indigenous Elder.

## **Indigenous Advisory Committee**

### Action Items from February 14-16

#### Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting summary for Members to review and finalize;
- Follow-up with members who expressed interest in providing quote for Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework (February 25, 2022)

#### Members' Action-items:

- Review meeting summary;
- Review and provide feedback on the Collaboration Agreement template (February 25, 2022);
- Provide any additional feedback highlighted revisions to Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework (February 25, 2022);
- Collaboration Agreement Sub-Committee to clarify purpose of draft collaboration template and incorporate any additional IAC comments.

## **Attendees**

### ***IAC Co-Chairs***

Sue Chiblow  
Kyle Vermette

### ***IAC Committee Members***

Deana Sappier  
Paul Jones  
Jocelyn Gosselin  
Rachel Olson  
Angel Ransom  
Suzie O'Bomsawin  
Stanley Oliver  
Derrick Pottle

### ***Impact Assessment Agency***

Brent Parker  
Susan Winger  
Janice Zeitz  
Emily Fairbairn  
Carolyn Dunn  
Christina Mulvena  
Ian Ketcheson  
Anne Spears

### ***Dillon Consulting Ltd***

Clayton Coppaway  
Kelsey Hewitt

### ***Regrets***

Elmer Ghostkeeper  
Melody Lepine