

# Summary of the Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge and the Indigenous Advisory Committee

May 4, 2022

Hybrid In-person and Virtual Meeting

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## Meeting Objective

There were three main objectives of the May 4 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge (TAC) and the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC). The first was to provide an overview of the IAC and TAC's respective accomplishments and priorities as well as discuss potential linkages moving forward. The second was to provide an opportunity for IAC and TAC members to discuss the IAC, TAC, and Agency's current priorities with the President. The third was to discuss the current state and gaps related to Indigenous Knowledge and western science in impact assessment, the development of additional tools and approaches, and determine any next steps, including potential further IAC/TAC activities.

## Agenda Item: Introductions & Overview of Priorities and Work to Date

- The Elder provided opening remarks and a prayer to begin the meeting. A member of the committee provided a territorial acknowledgement.
- The ex-officio member of both committees provided further opening remarks and introduced the Agency's President.
- The co-chairs of each committee provided presentations on the two committees' work to date and their priorities going forward. Committee members posed questions the Circle of Experts on the Indigenous Cooperation Agreement Regulations, plans for future updates to the Agency's guidance on cumulative effects, and potential linkages between cumulative effects guidance and upcoming work by the TAC on biodiversity.

## Agenda Item: Remarks by the President on Path Forward

- The Agency's President provided remarks to both committees, highlighting the value of their advice to date, the experience to date with implementation of the impact Assessment Act, and the priority being placed by the government on climate change.
- The committee members had the opportunity to have an exchange of views and pose questions to the President. Topics addressed included Designation Requests, regional assessments, the Agency's work with Indigenous communities, the Project List

regulations, and capacity challenges for Indigenous communities to meet project timelines.

### **Agenda Item: Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science in Impact Assessment**

- The Agency provided an overview of the topic, including the current state of the committees' work and gaps in the practice of impact assessment.
- The committees broke into sub-groups to discuss the topic. Takeaways included identifying Valued Components important to Indigenous communities early, validating studies by including Indigenous knowledge holders, the importance of having western science students introduced early to Indigenous knowledge, the need for the Agency to provide practitioners with tools, the difference between how western science and Indigenous knowledge are communicated and how they can best be communicated to decision-makers, and that Indigenous knowledge is inherently values-based.

### **Agenda Item: Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

- Closing remarks were provided by the committee co-chairs and the ex-officio member. An Indigenous Elder led the closing prayer.

### **Take Aways**

- Secretariats of both committees to discuss with committee co-chairs on next steps for IK and western science.

### **Attendees**

#### ***TAC Co-Chairs***

Kevin Hanna  
Darcy Pickard

#### ***TAC Committee Members***

Alistair MacDonald  
Bill Ross  
Colin Webster  
Gillian Donald  
Glennis Lewis  
Helga Shield

Marie Lagimodiere  
Mark Shrimpton  
Meinhard Doelle  
Michel Bérubé

***Indigenous Advisory Committee Members***

Kyle Vermette (Co-Chair)  
Elmer Gohstkeeper  
Suzie O’Bomsawin (virtual)  
Melody Lepine  
Derrick Pottle (virtual)  
Paul Jones (virtual)  
Rachel Olsen  
Angel Ransom  
Stanley Oliver (virtual)

***Regrets***

Sue-Chiblow (Co-Chair)  
Jocelyn Gosselin

***Impact Assessment Agency of Canada***

Terence Hubbard  
Patricia Brady  
Brent Parker  
Robyn Whittaker  
Susan Winger  
Michael Grassie  
Janice Zeitz  
Emily Fairbairn  
Joshua Boisvert  
Anne Spear