

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

June 13-14, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

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The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) had a hybrid meeting June 13-14, 2023 in Happy Valley Goose-Bay. The meeting opened with a prayer from an Indigenous Elder. Co-Chairs also provided opening remarks, facilitated a roundtable meet, and greet for five new IAC members and ten returning members.

The Agency's President provided opening remarks welcoming new committee members to their first meeting. An overview of the IAC's work and priorities for the upcoming year was also provided with time for questions.

The Co-Chairs led a discussion on the Committees operating procedures to ensure effective committee function and to review roles and responsibilities. Members added a section on Elder involvement and made several editorial edits to the wording. There was consensus that a minimum standard of 3 years should be added on the Committee review section.

The Co-Chairs shared IAC's final Progress and Impacts Report with graphics from an Indigenous graphic artist. As a next step, the Report will be translated into ten Indigenous Languages and posted on the Agency's website.

An Agency official provided members with a recap of IAC Priorities for 2023-24 identified through Agency discussions and workplanning discussions with this Committee. An update was also provided in the Agency's Technical Advisory Committee which will be continuing joint work with IAC on Indigenous Knowledge and Science, continued work on biodiversity, engagement on the Project list at key points as well as a review of other Agency guidance on cumulative effects. The Minister's Advisory Council has submitted its second report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and will be circulated to this Committee.

The Co-Chairs led a workplanning session to determine the path forward for advancing priority area for Indigenous Knowledge, Assessing Impacts on Rights and Emerging issues items. New members were asked to submit their names to the Secretariat if interested in joining the IAC/TAC joint sub-committee on IK and Science in the decision-making phase or the Impacts on Rights Sub-committee, which will be producing operational guidance to proponents on subsequent phases of the IA, process i.e. decisions and post-decision making.

On the second day, the Champion of the joint Sub-Committee on Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Science provided an update on a draft tool, in the form of a table, for the consideration of IK and Science in decision-making. The objective of this tool is to provide generic criteria that will help decision-makers understand if science and IK were appropriately considered in impact assessments. A finalized table will be brought to TAC and IAC at the next Fall meeting for a fulsome discussion. The joint-Sub-Committee will organize a presentation from the Agency to explain the current internal decision-making process since the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

An Agency official presented background on the Indigenous Knowledge policy work and discussion options for the development of Indigenous Knowledge Technical Guidance. It was decided that IAC would be included in a roundtable group of experts using the three discussion questions on the development of IK technical guidance as a basis for this roundtable discussion. It was also suggested that an additional sub-committee could be established to advance this work.

An Agency official provided an overview of the Agency's upcoming regulatory plan including Cost Recovery Regulations, Indigenous Co-Administration Agreements, Designated Classes of Projects Order, the Project List and Administrative Monetary Penalties. It was determined that items would be brought back as a package in the Fall for IAC awareness and potential feedback on items with anticipated targeted engagement such as the Project List.

An Agency official provided background on the co-administration agreements and co-development process for newer IAC members. An overview of the engagement plan and timeline was provided to members. It was determined that the discussion paper would be shared with IAC members in a stand alone meeting once the Circle of Experts finalized the document.

An Agency official provided background on the development of an Indigenous Feedback Guide. The Agency is currently seeking advice from an Indigenous-led organization on how best to collect information and measure key performance indicators. Depending on the contractors timeline this may be brought back to the committee in the Fall.

The members of the Committee ended the meeting with an in camera session and a closing prayer from an Indigenous Elder.

**Attendees**

***IAC Co-Chairs***

Kyle Vermette

Rachel Olson

***IAC Committee Members***

Paul Jones

Angel Ransom

Jocelyn Gosselin

Julia Kennedy-Francis

Derrick Pottle

Stanley Oliver

Sue Chiblow

Melody Lepine

Jennifer Campbell

Chevaun Toulouse

Florence Catholique

Andre Michel

***Impact Assessment Agency***

Ian Ketcheson

Deborah Quaicoe

Janice Zeitz

Emily Fairbairn

Sara Jackson

Erin Gilmer

Carolyn Dunn

Sara Quaile

***Regrets***

Derrick Pottle