



Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting on Assessing Impacts on Rights Virtual Meeting

January 26, 2021

Meeting Objectives

For IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) to discuss next steps for work on the topic of assessing potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks

The meeting began with a cultural welcome and an opening prayer from an Indigenous Elder. IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) co-chairs provided a welcome to members and opening remarks noting the return of Ex-Officio Member Brent Parker and returning member, Elmer Ghostkeeper. The Ex-Officio member provided opening remarks noting the next steps for the Interdepartmental Indigenous Knowledge (IK (Indigenous Knowledge)) Policy Framework. An update was also provided on the Minister's Advisory Council on Impact Assessment (MINAC) which is mandated to provide independent, non-political advice on the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act*. This includes areas such as governance, regional and strategic assessment, and early planning of the IA process.

Agenda item: Overview of 2019 Workshop on Impacts on Rights

A member provided an overview of the *Workshop Outcomes and Findings for Reviewing Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* under the *Impact Assessment Act*. This Report was the result of a 2019 Agency workshop facilitated by the Firelight Group to discuss the Agency's policy approach to reviewing potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous people under new IAA (Impact Assessment Act) legislation. The overall goal of the workshop was to understand what is needed for rights assessment to be as effective and meaningful as possible under the

new IAA (Impact Assessment Act) and accompanying guidance documents. An overview was provided on developing a methodology and understanding what is needed for rights assessment to be meaningful under the new IAA (Impact Assessment Act).

Agenda item: Assessing Impacts on Rights: Overview of key areas of work for the Agency

An Agency official provided an overview of the roles involved in impacts on rights work and differences based on project-type (Review Panel, Agency-led and substitution). The importance of establishing early relationships and understanding cultural protocols to facilitate communication with communities was noted. The Agency is seeking high level principles/advice from IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) to inform proponents on early engagement with and support for Indigenous communities to prepare for Impacts on Rights Assessment. Members had the following general comment:

- Terminology: Need to revisit language in Agency Guidance to be consistent with the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Agenda item: Committee Business and next steps

The Champion for the joint Sub-Committee on IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and Western Science provided an update to members on work to date. Work is focusing primarily on advice that could be given to proponents on how to best gather IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and Science, particularly in the early planning stage. Work is also underway to prepare a draft presentation that will be delivered and the International Association for Impact Assessment in May 2021

The Champion for the Collaboration Agreement Sub-Committee provided an update on the Sub-Committee which is mandated to provide advice to the Agency on how to reflect in agreements the Agency's goal of working collaboratively with Indigenous communities and supporting a robust nation-to-nation, government to government, Inuit-Crown relationship. Work to date has focused on Sub-Committee governance, the role of a policy writer to produce a set of draft principles for collaboration and the role of an academic to produce a report of findings for the IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) on collaboration in the context of the existing IAA (Impact Assessment Act) framework.

The co-chairs provided an update on the approach for consolidated feedback on the Interdepartmental IK (Indigenous Knowledge) Policy Framework. Members decided they will participate in one of 2 breakout sessions in early February and the Agency will make revisions from these breakouts before the document is posted

It was decided a late February IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Meeting will be process-focused to discuss the Committee's work in retrospect and forward work planning. The meeting ended with a closing prayer from an Indigenous Elder.

Indigenous Advisory Committee

Action Items from January 26

Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting summary for Members to review and finalize;
- Circulate document on Agency Committees.

Members' Action-items:

- Review meeting summary;
- Co-chair to connect with a member about the possibility to have TK experts present to the Committee or to have a separate discussion.

Attendees

IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Co-Chairs

Sue Chiblow

Kyle Vermette

IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Committee Members

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Angel Ransom

Stanley Oliver

Melody Lepine

Impact Assessment Agency

Brent Parker

Susan Winger

Janice Zeitz
Emily Fairbairn
Alana Green
Ian Ketcheson
Analise Saely
Valancy Reynolds

Date modified:

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