



Indigenous Advisory Committee – Videoconference – May 12, 2020 1:30-3:30 EST

Meeting Objectives

The objective for the fourth Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting was to discuss the findings of the Firelight Environmental Scan on Indigenous-Led Impact Assessments, and for the Indigenous Knowledge Sub-Committee to provide members with an update. Members were also engaged on how to continue to operate during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Agenda item: Welcome and opening remarks

The Agency introduced the new Ex-Officio member, Stewart Lindale, A/Director General, Strategic Policy Directorate.

Agenda item: The Firelight Group Scan on Indigenous-led Assessment

The Firelight Group shared their draft findings from the environmental scan of Indigenous-led impact assessments in Canada. The findings are based on case studies (co-developed, co-managed) of Indigenous-led impact assessment and considered governance models, community engagement, and how each case worked with the formal environmental/impact assessment system. The report identified that Indigenous-led impact assessments can be effective with a wide range of primary relationships, including with the Crown, with the proponent, and with no partner at all (independent). Choosing the right primary relationship is critical; there will be pros and cons to each potential key relationship.

Members highlighted the following key issues in response to the Firelight Report:

The report demonstrated, in almost all instances (including in the new Federal IA process), the Crown retains the ultimate decision-making power.

The report could be useful to the Agency in order to inform proponents of the new reality. Need to build processes soon; once established as precedent, will be hard to reverse.

Agenda Item: Indigenous Knowledge Sub-Committee Update

Members reflected on the challenges they are experiencing in meeting pre-established timelines for providing advice to inform the development of a draft of the Indigenous Knowledge Framework. Members discussed how to adjust the work of the Sub-Committee, given the current pandemic to ensure the work could advance within the given timeframes.

Agenda Item: Cooperation in Impact Assessment

The Agency provided an overview of cooperation approaches. Discussion questions focusing on key issues and engagement approach were circulated to members for their consideration at the next meeting.

Members provided preliminary feedback on the presentation:

- Barriers to collaboration include capacity funding, timelines, frequency of projects

- Frameworks for collaboration need to recognize that pan-aboriginal approaches don't work

- Differing world views can cause tension between parties involved in IA

Agenda Item: Next steps

Members agreed to hold four 2-hour long video conferencing over the course of the next two months.

The Agency provided an update on remuneration for these video conferences.

A joint TAC/IAC meeting over videoconference would be beneficial – discussion would focus around priorities and possible alignments.

The Agency's interim guidance on Indigenous Knowledge is posted to the Agency's website. The Agency looks forward to comments from the Committee for future versions of the Indigenous Knowledge policy guidance.

Action Items from May 12th, 2020

Secretariat Action Items:

- Meeting minutes for Members to review and finalize (in progress)

- Circulate discussion questions provided by the Agency for future discussion (Completed)

- Circulate The Firelight Group's presentation (Completed)

Organize 2-hour video conference meeting to discuss collaboration questions provided by the Agency and the Firelight Group's Environmental Scan findings (in progress)
Organize June joint-video conference meeting with the TAC (in progress)

Members' Action-items:

Review & comment on meeting summary

Comment on Firelight Group presentation and Agency's collaboration discussion questions.

Work with the IK Sub-Committee to support ongoing work and establish new timelines for deliverables during the pandemic.

Attendees

Co-Chairs

Sue Chiblow

Committee Members

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Angel Ransom

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Melody Lepine

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Stanley Oliver

Impact Assessment Agency

Stewart Lindale

Susan Winger

Janice Zeitz

Alan Clarke

Martha Johnson

Kayla Carman

The Firelight Group

Dr. Jordan Tam

Regrets

Kyle Vermette

Emily Fairbairn

Date modified:

2020-11-10