



# Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting on the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Policy Framework Virtual Meeting

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December 2, 2020

## Meeting Objectives

For IAC to discuss the Draft Interdepartmental IK Policy Framework. To discuss identified areas of concern and provide feedback on how to address these issues.

## Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks

The meeting began with a cultural welcome and an opening prayer from an Indigenous Elder. IAC co-chairs provided a welcome to members and opening remarks noting the return of co-chair Kyle Vermette in January. The Ex-Officio member provided opening remarks and introduced IK review Departments in attendance.

## Agenda item: Overview of IK Policy Framework

An Agency representative described the process that led to the development of the Interdepartmental IK Policy Framework, building off national engagement and the IAC's recommendations on Principles to be included. The Framework is currently with National Indigenous Organizations for review. There was also a discussion of the operational realities in broad policy framework given the IK Framework applies to four distinct Acts (*Impact Assessment Act*, *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*, *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and fish and fish habitat provisions of the *Fisheries Act*). This in turn creates variations in approaches, which the IK Framework aims to address in providing consistency. Context was also provided on next steps for IK Policy Framework, recognizing that it is a document for discussion with the IAC. The Agency intends to continue to coordinate work related to the Framework in collaboration with other implicated Departments. An online engagement period for the Framework is targeted for winter 2021 to allow for a finalized IK Policy Framework by summer 2021.

## Agenda item: Discussion

Members provided general feedback on the IK Policy Framework document noting the following considerations:

- **Consistency** – The goal of the IK Policy Framework is to achieve consistency yet processes across Departments already vary. Interest in seeing policies that will flow from the IK Policy Framework.
- **Terminology** – need for consistency with how the Act is structured and Indigenous governance.
  - Difficulty in defining IK (no universally accepted definition)
  - Need to revisit certain caveats in the Framework (i.e. “to the extent possible”) which diminishes level of commitment.
- **Confidentiality** – Where would IK not be confidential?
- **Guidance for federal officials** – need to ensure existing agreements or consultation protocols between Indigenous Nations and the federal Government are utilized.

## Agenda item: Committee Business

The Champion of the joint IAC-TAC Sub-Committee on Indigenous Knowledge and Science provided an update on work to date to members. The Sub-Committee had their first meeting November 16 to discuss their work plan and approach for addressing the priority of IK and Science. The focus has been on preparing an abstract for the International Association of Impact Assessment virtual presentation on IK and Science in Impact Assessment in Canada. The Sub-Committee's abstract was recently accepted and members will be bringing forward case studies to assist the preparation and identify a community to input into the presentation. The Sub-Committee will also be discussing an approach on producing advice to proponents on how best to gather and consider Indigenous knowledge and science in the early development and planning phase.

A member of the Collaboration Agreement Sub-Committee provided an update from the first meeting November 26. The first meeting largely focused on sub-committee governance, including a review of the Terms of Reference. Members also discussed the draft work plan for an academic on the subject matter. In a parallel process, the Sub-Committee will be directing the work of a consultant who will be penning a document on Principles to be reflected in agreements. The notes from IACs breakout discussions will also inform this work.

## Indigenous Advisory Committee

## **Action Items from December 2 Meeting**

### Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting summary for Members to review and finalize.
- Re-circulate GC Collab link and instructions.
- Circulate what was heard on IK Policy Framework to inform Committee endorsed advice to Agency.

### Members' Action-items:

- Review meeting summary;
- Provide Agency any recommendations for communities/case studies that would be good examples of cross-pollination between IK and Western Science (Due December 18, 2020).
- Finalize Committee endorsed advice on Framework and send to Secretariat (Due January 8, 2021).
- Decide if another meeting on IK is needed in the January.

## **Attendees**

### **IAC Co-Chairs**

Sue Chiblow

Stanley Oliver (interim)

### **IAC Committee Members**

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Kyle Vermette

Angel Ransom

### **Regrets**

Melody Lepine

### **Impact Assessment Agency**

Stewart Lindale

Susan Winger

Janice Zeitz

Emily Fairbairn

Alana Green

Carolyn Dunn

## **Review Departments**

Cathy Hainsworth (TC)

Cathy Gee (DFO)

Michael Benson (CER)

Marc Boucher (CER)

### **Date modified:**

2021-01-05