



May 5, 2023

Members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee:

I appreciate the advice you have provided to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) on a variety of important topics in 2022–2023, including on the Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework, Indigenous Knowledge and western science (in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge), and operational guidance to proponents on assessment of impacts on rights.

I also greatly appreciated your feedback on key issues identified by the Agency, such as the Indigenous Cooperation Agreement Regulations, Agency training, breadth of consultation assessment guidance, and the Agency's Framework for tracking and reporting on Follow-up Programs.

I understand that, as a Committee, you had productive discussions on how this Committee and the Agency can work together on joint priorities in the coming year. With that, your contribution to the following three jointly identified priorities will be particularly relevant:

- 1. Joint work with the Technical Advisory Committee regarding Indigenous Knowledge and western science:** Building on the progress made, the joint subcommittee is encouraged to continue its excellent work in developing a practical tool to support the consideration of both knowledge systems in impact assessment (IA) decision-making, with the aim of submitting a tool to the Agency this fiscal year.
- 2. Assessing Impacts on Rights:** Continuing the phased approach for guidance to proponents by focusing on the Impact Assessment, Decision-Making and Post Decision-Making phase of IAs.

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- 3. Emerging Issues:** Providing feedback on key issues identified by the Agency or by the Committee (e.g. Reconciliation Framework, spectrum of involvement in IA including cooperation regulations, and periodic review of Agency policy products including non-Indigenous policies such as cost recovery, project list, etc.).

The Committee's advice on these subjects will be valuable to the Agency as it continues to implement the *Impact Assessment Act*. I would underscore that the Agency is here to support the Committee. The Agency's ex-officio member can provide guidance and support for the Committee's work for those priorities identified above and any that may emerge. Similarly, the Agency's Indigenous Advisory Committee Secretariat is able to support committee members in a number of ways.

I look forward to an opportunity to meet with Committee members over the next year and wish to extend a special welcome to those members who have recently joined. I am confident that the Committee, informed by the varied experiences and expertise of its membership, will provide valuable advice to the Agency; contributing to the achievement of our mandate and the objectives of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Sincerely,

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)