



Summary of the Joint Meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee & Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge

July 21, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Objectives

For the two committees to discuss the joint priority of Indigenous knowledge and science in impact assessment.

Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks

The meeting began with a cultural welcome and an opening prayer from an Indigenous Elder. Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge (TAC) co-chairs provided a welcome to members and opening remarks. The Agency's Vice-President of External Relations and Strategic Policy provided opening remarks highlighting the importance of creating an ethical space to understand diverse perspectives.

Agenda item: Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework Presentation

A representative from the Indigenous Advisory Committee's (IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee)) Indigenous Knowledge (IK (Indigenous Knowledge)) Sub-Committee presented a document entitled "Principles, Best-Practices and Elements for the Development of an IK (Indigenous Knowledge) Policy Framework". An overview was provided on five key areas of the document including: defining IK (Indigenous Knowledge) broadly, respect and partnership, inclusion of IK (Indigenous Knowledge), protection and confidentiality, and capacity building. The Agency noted that the Sub-Committees' document will inform the development of an Interdepartmental Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for project reviews and regulatory decisions. The following key themes were highlighted by Members:

- Importance of a principles-based IK (Indigenous Knowledge) framework
- Timelines for Indigenous communities
- Common understanding of the meaning of IK (Indigenous Knowledge)
- Collaboration with Indigenous peoples through early and ongoing engagement and pre-existing relationships
- Establishing well-defined information requirements at the beginning of the impact assessment process supported by appropriate guidance

Next Steps for IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Work: Final document submitted to Agency with IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) recommendation on the “Principles, best practices, and key elements to include in the development of the Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework”.

Agenda item: Discussion on IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and Western Science

Members discussed what the Agency could do to support proponents and practitioners in making better connections between science and Indigenous knowledge:

- A true balancing of the role of IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and science is required in policy and guidance documents.
- Importance of early and meaningful engagement, based on relationships
- Importance of starting IK (Indigenous Knowledge) work as early as scientific studies
- Adequate funding to support project-specific data collection
- Indigenous groups should be in control of IK (Indigenous Knowledge)-specific work (Traditional Use Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Studies, Culture and Rights work)
- Provide clear guidance for proponents on how to connect Indigenous knowledge and science, but guidance should not be limited to this. Each knowledge system should also be allowed to co-exist on their own merit
- Clarity on what is meant by “knowledge systems”
- Develop IK (Indigenous Knowledge) protocols applicable to impact assessments. Provide
- cultural training opportunities for all parties working on IA projects
- Importance of having Indigenous representation on panels

Members highlighted key factors that promote respectful consideration of multiple knowledge systems for the benefit of all parties:

- Partnership and collaboration. (Jointly developed conceptual models, two knowledge systems can complement each other)

- Respect (ensuring differences of Nations are respected, openness, transparency)
- Shared decision making during key phases such as scoping and study design
- Communication mechanism & ongoing dialogue between knowledge sources
- Early engagement and adequate timelines to collect data.
- Understanding complexities of differences a knowledge system can have and acknowledging biases
- The tendency to 'integrate' IK (Indigenous Knowledge) into science so that decision makers can 'understand' it should be eliminated; IK (Indigenous Knowledge) is a stand alone knowledge system that does not need to be explained by science
- Adequate expertise (capacity, training, and cultural awareness to assist with understanding of Indigenous knowledge)

Members reflected on examples where science and Indigenous knowledge were included together in an impact assessment or other work that led to better insights into ecological processes, cultural values, health and socio-economic change. Some examples provided included:

- LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) project in British Columbia, Fort McKay Specific Assessment, Port of Québec's Laurentia Project Assessment, Lower Churchill Joint Panel Review, Rupert River (Hydro Quebec), Fort Nelson First Nation, Carrier Sekani nations – Blackwater Mine, Tseil Waututh - TMX (TransMountain Expansion), Tseil Waututh - TMX (TransMountain Expansion), Baffinland Mary River Project Phase 2 Expansion, and New Prosperity mine.

Agenda item: Discussion on Joint Deliverables for Committees

Co-Chairs of both Committees led a discussion to determine a deliverable related to the topic of Indigenous Knowledge and Science and identify key information that should inform it.

Preliminary suggestions included:

- Advice to the Agency on how early planning and engagement processes could be enhanced to better inform the proponent.
- Research or contract work on how two knowledge systems can co-exist, or collaborate to inform a better understanding for proponents.
- Guidance or fact sheet on when it is appropriate to combine IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and Science and when it is not.
- List of challenges and recommended solutions for equitably considering both knowledge systems in IA.

- Best practices for incorporating both IK (Indigenous Knowledge) and science at every stage of the IA process

Potential joint Committee outputs: Preliminary Advice to Agency with a potential follow-up joint meeting at a later date.

Agenda item: Next Steps

The two Committees will consider future collaboration and information sharing. The meeting ended with a closing prayer from an Indigenous Elder.

Potential Outputs from the July 21, 2020 joint IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee)/TAC (Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge) meeting.

Agency Priority Policy Area	Potential Deliverable	Timing	Status/comments	<u>IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee)</u> key commitment / interest
Indigenous knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdepartmental Framework 	Final <u>IK (Indigenous Knowledge)</u> Sub-Committee Principles document that will inform <u>IK (Indigenous Knowledge)</u> Policy Framework	July 31, 2020	<u>IK (Indigenous Knowledge)</u> Sub-Committee to submit final version to <u>IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee)</u> Secretariat	<u>IK (Indigenous Knowledge)</u> Policy Framework
	Potential joint meeting	Winter 2020 (TBD)	TBD	<u>IK (Indigenous Knowledge)</u> & Science

Attendees

IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Co-Chairs

Sue Chiblow

Stanley Oliver (interim)

IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) Committee Members

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Angel Ransom

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Melody Lepine

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Regrets

Kyle Vermette

TAC (Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge) Co-Chairs

Darcy Pickard

Kevin Hanna

TAC (Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge) Committee Members

Alistair MacDonald

Bill Ross

Gillian Donald

Glennis Lewis

Helga Shield

Hugo Mailhot Couture

Marie Lagimodiere

Meinhard Doelle

Michel Bérubé

Impact Assessment Agency

Stewart Lindale

Brent Parker

Ian Ketcheson

Steve Chapman

Susan Winger

Miriam Padolsky

Janice Zeitz
Emily Fairbairn
Robyn Whittaker
Alana Green
Joshua Boisvert

Regrets

Mark Shrimpton
Colin Webster

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