

Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting

September 27-28, 2023

Hybrid Meeting (Gatineau, QC, ON)

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) had a hybrid meeting September 27-28 in Gatineau, QC. The meeting opened with a prayer from an Indigenous Elder. Co-Chairs also provided opening remarks and the Ex-Officio member highlighted Agency updates.

Two Circle of Experts Members working on the Indigenous Co-Administration Agreement Regulations provided a high level overview of lessons learned in co-developing a discussion paper. . An overview was provided on the Circles work to date and recent progress including the development of a draft discussion paper and engagement within the Agency and other federal departments as well as engagement with national Indigenous organizations.

An Agency official provided members with an overview of the discussion paper which clarifies the scope and outlines challenges, considerations and options on eligibility and defining territories where Co-administration Agreements apply and how to structure regulations and negotiate agreements. The Circle's conclusion were highlighted including capacity challenges, using this mechanism to maximize influence in IA, by sharing decisions at key points as well as recognizing co-administration agreements can provide formal assurances of decision-making roles in future processes. It is anticipated the discussion paper will be finalized with the Circle and Agency in November/December.

The IAC had a working session on a technical review of the Indigenous Co-Administration Agreements discussion paper. Members noted the importance of flexibility of funds and how Indigenous groups are consulted during the proposed engagement process on the discussion paper.

On the second day, IAC members continued a discussion and awareness building session on the draft discussion paper for the Indigenous Co-Administration Agreement regulations including public interest determination and opportunities for supporting readiness. Members highlighted the need for capacity support and planning. Members indicated the need for the following 1. to for caveat language provided by the IAC; 2. IAC would also like a one on open virtual discussion between IAC members and Circle of experts members to discuss the drafting process and 3. the opportunity to draft advice to the Agency on what co-development should look like.

The Champion for the joint Sub-Committee on Indigenous Knowledge and western science provided an overview of work to date and shared an updated workplan. Members had a substantive discussion on the Indigenous Knowledge and western science table tool for evaluating what is sufficient advice to decision-makers. Members also provided feedback on high level principles in the preamble of the document.

The IAC had a discussion on Committee business including the IAC funding structure and service standards and travel claims. Co-Chairs recapped action items and provided an overview of approach for the next meeting. The meeting ended with a closing prayer from an Indigenous Elder.

Attendees

IAC Co-Chairs

Kyle Vermette

Rachel Olson

IAC Committee Members

Paul Jones

Angel Ransom

Jocelyn Gosselin

Julia Kennedy-Francis

Stanley Oliver

Sue Chiblow

Melody Lepine

Jennifer Campbell

Chevaun Toulouse

Florence Catholique

André Michel

Walter Andreeff

Day 2 Regrets

Angel Ransom

Paul Jones

Florence Catholique

Julia Kennedy-Francis

Impact Assessment Agency

Ian Ketcheson

Deborah Quaicoe

Janice Zeitz

Emily Fairbairn

Sara Jackson

Thomas Joe

Erin Gilmer

Carolyn Dunn

Mary Nemeth

Sara Quaile

Annik Birnie