



President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22<sup>e</sup> étage  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

July 17, 2020

Dear Members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee:

Thank you for the valuable work you have all done to advance the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) and begin providing important advice on the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act*. I am grateful for the contributions that you have all made.

I would particularly like to highlight the admirable job that your Co-Chairs, Sue Chiblow and Elmer Ghostkeeper, have done over this past year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kyle Vermette for accepting the appointment as Co-Chair in place of Mr. Ghostkeeper on his departure from the Committee.

As we enter the second year of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (the Agency) mandate, the following three issues have emerged as key areas where the Agency would value IAC's input and support:

1. Indigenous Knowledge – Input on Principles to inform the Interdepartmental Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework.
2. Collaboration and Cooperation – Advice on how to put into practice the Agency's goal of working collaboratively with Indigenous communities. For example, proposing models for collaboration agreements and other practical tools for applying existing guidance.
3. Assessing Impacts on Rights – Advice on the Agency's Interim guidance aimed at impact assessment practitioners. For example, tools and adaptable approaches for applying the guidance in various circumstances.

Stewart Lindale, the Agency ex-officio member on the Committee, will work with you to support your development of advice in these areas.

The Agency is also supportive of the joint work that you are pursuing with the Technical Advisory Committee to discuss both committees' priorities and views on western science and Indigenous knowledge.

.../2



It is important that the work of the IAC be transparent and available to First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities, as well as the Agency's stakeholders and the broader impact assessment practitioner community. As such, the Agency will be available to support the IAC in developing mechanisms and tools to achieve this goal.

It was good to have had the opportunity to attend your meeting in November 2019, and I look forward to doing so again in the future. I was also happy to have participated in the joint meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee on July 16 and will be interested in the outcomes of the collaboration between the two committees.

Finally, I would like to applaud your willingness to continue the IAC's important work virtually in the challenging circumstances we are all experiencing. Your work is critical to the continued success and improvement of Canada's impact assessment process.

Sincerely,

David McGovern