



Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting on Assessing Impacts to Rights November 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Meeting Objectives

For IAC to determine if more work is necessary on the Institute of Governance (IOG) Report and to introduce IAC to the policy issue assessing impacts to rights.

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 approach for the gradual return of a co-chair in January 2021. The Ex-Officio member provided an update from the last meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, noting the approach for their three sub-committees on cumulative effects, positive effects, and health, social and economic effects. The work on the joint IAC-TAC sub-committee is also advancing with preparations for a presentation of case studies to present at the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA in May 2021). The presentation will focus on work done to address issues on IK and western science, informed by both committees' experts in both knowledge systems as they pertain to IA.

Agenda item: Institute on Governance (IOG) Final Report

An Agency representative reminded members they received the final IOG Report in September, with funding provided by this Committee. The intention of the report was to provide an analysis of First Nations, Métis and Inuit standards and principles that establish how Indigenous Knowledge should be collected, protected, used or shared in impact assessment. The research was to identify commonalities and/or distinctions between the perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. Co-chairs led a discussion to determine if more work is necessary due to shortened timelines associated with the pandemic. Members recognized that

the report is quite short with general information. It was also noted members will have an opportunity to feed into the joint Sub-Committee work on IK and Science in preparation for the IAIA conference, as well as a final review of the Interdepartmental IK Policy Framework.

Agenda item: Setting up the Collaboration break out-session approach

An Agency representative provided an overview of the proposed approach to have two 1-hour working sessions for members to discuss the discussion questions. The questions focus on how future agreements on IA can be used to clarify expectations in advance of projects, and build on existing approaches to implement Canada's reconciliation commitments and respect for nation-to-nation, government-to-governing, Inuit/Crown relationships. A Policy writer would support the sub-committee by penning the overarching Principles for negotiating agreements in relation to nation-to-nation relationships, to be submitted to the Agency. In a parallel process, the sub committee will direct the work of an academic to undertake research (gaps, best practices or an environmental scan of current and past examples of collaboration agreements). Members highlighted the following points to this approach:

- Legal expertise - Interest in having legal expertise involved as a consultant to pen the document from the Collaboration Agreement sub-committee (e.g. University of Calgary law professor or other academics in the field of Duty to Consult/Accommodate);
- Holistic view of models that go beyond IA – looking at projects on unceded territory with a holistic view of resources, social and economic perspectives.

Agenda item: Introduction to Assessing Impacts to Rights

An Agency official introduced members to work the Agency has been doing in this area. Assessing Impacts to Rights was a priority area identified by the Committee as well as the Agency. An overview of the development of the Agency's guidance on assessing impacts to rights was provided, building on a technical workshop with practitioners on methodologies and best practices in 2019. The Agency will be looking at what further work is needed, and areas we would propose the committee consider for their work – right sizing IOR assessments, including Métis and Inuit perspectives, identifying gaps, e.g. in relation to direct health social and economic.

Agenda item: Committee Business

An Agency official provided an update on the Agency's Level 3 “technical and subject-specific” training on the IAAC's policy and guidance related to Indigenous issues within the IA process such as: IK, Indigenous engagement and the assessment of potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Agency welcomes input from IAC on these topics for training going forward. The approach for building in Indigenous learning experiences was also discussed, including opportunities for members to participate in un-scripted video interviews.

An Agency official provided an update on the Agency's Indigenous Awareness training that the Indigenous Policy division has been coordinating for staff training to increase awareness on Indigenous issues and rights. These sessions provide a basic understanding of the unique social, political, and cultural realities of Indigenous Peoples, including their knowledge systems. A session in October featured Bob Watts who spoke about leadership in Reconciliation at an Agency-wide virtual event. Members were asked to notify Agency if they are interested in speaking at any of these sessions.

Indigenous Advisory Committee

Action Items from November 9 Meeting

Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting summary for Members to review and finalize.
- Send placeholders for breakout sessions (November 17 and 25th)
- Send placeholder for general IAC meeting December 2

Members' Action-items:

- Review meeting summary;
- Provide Secretariat any further recommendations for academics for Collaboration Sub-Committee work.
- Accept and attend one of the 2 breakout session invitations (November 17 or 25th)
- Provide Secretariat additional feedback on topics for tailored training sessions.
- Put name forward for modular training session video interviews if interested.

Attendees

IAC Co-Chairs

Sue Chiblow

Stanley Oliver (interim)

IAC Committee Members

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Angel Ransom

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Melody Lepine

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Regrets

Kyle Vermette

Impact Assessment Agency

Stewart Lindale

Ian Ketcheson

Susan Winger

Erin Groulx

Janice Zeitz

Emily Fairbairn

Christina Mulvena

Alana Green

Kayla Carmen

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