



Summary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee Meeting

June 16, 2020

2 hour Video-Conference

Meeting Objectives

For IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) to discuss Cooperation and Collaboration in Impact Assessment

Agenda item: Introduction & opening remarks

The meeting began with an opening prayer from co-chair Sue Chiblow. Stewart Lindale, the Ex-Officio member for the Agency provided updates to the Committee on the Agency's Indigenous Capacity Support Program and confirmed a joint meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC (Technical Advisory Committee)) in July.

Agenda item: First Nation Major Projects Coalition Presentation on Survey on Indigenous Governance and Collaborative Processes in Federal Impact Assessment

Angel Ransom walked through a recent survey of its members designed to report on recommendations to increase Indigenous collaboration within the new federal IA (impact assessment) system. This work was funded by the Agency to support collaboration with Indigenous peoples in the development of policies and guidance. Initial observations from the survey indicates:

- General agreement of importance of tools and policies for Nations to engage in IA (impact assessment);
- Strong interest in controlling a variety of IA (impact assessment) phases (initial planning, scoping, drafting of the Impact Statement, decision-making and post decision phases);
- Interest in funding to complete studies;

- Indigenous-led IA (impact assessment): Interest in a government relationship more than a proponent co-authorship scheme; and
- Strong interest in collaborative mechanisms: S. 114, general feeling it should not be up to Minister to determine criteria of eligibility.

Agenda item: Collaboration and Cooperation in Impact Assessment

An Agency official provided an overview of Agency's Guidance on Collaboration focusing on collaboration framework and regulations including the spectrum of participation and tools for participation such as consultation protocols, collaboration frameworks and funding to participate in the process. An overview was also provided on the direction the Agency is taking for proposed Indigenous Cooperation regulations.

The following key points were highlighted by members:

- Importance of early engagement;
- Community capacity and funding;
- Higher level Reconciliation commitments

Potential Committee outputs: Formal advice to the Agency on gaps for Indigenous cooperation regulations, what needs to be integrated into a potential policy framework, what works best for communities.

Agenda item: Next Steps

The Agency is looking at IAC (Indigenous Advisory Committee) reporting, tracking Committee decisions that have been taken and advice provided. An overview of the upcoming joint-meeting with TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) was also provided to discuss both Committees' priorities and discuss IK (Indigenous knowledge) and Western Science.

Next steps: Two additional video Conferences in August to continue the discussion on Collaboration and Cooperation. Members to consider what Committee could produce for this topic (feedback on guidance, advice on how Agency engaged with Indigenous peoples, role in shaping policy-work, establishing a sub-committee, role in developing policy framework).

Indigenous Advisory Committee Action Items from June 16 Meeting

Secretariat Action Items:

- Prepare meeting minutes for Members to review and finalize.
- Re-circulate Agency's Guidance on Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment
- Circulate brief on the Office of the Chief Science Advisor.
- Provide summary of consultation done to inform the *Impact Assessment Act* and the collaboration guidance.

Members' Action-items:

- Review and comment on meeting summary.
- Input to Agency on collaboration discussion questions (end of summer) including consideration of ways the committee could contribute to upcoming Agency work on collaboration/cooperation (feedback on the Agency's Guidance, development of another product, advice on engagement process etc) for discussion at next meeting
- Suggestions to Agency of Indigenous experts or organizations to engage with on a collaboration framework and/or regulations. (end of summer)
- Send Sub-Committee's Final Report on Principles and Elements for IK (Indigenous knowledge) Framework to the Secretariat (Rachel Olson)

Attendees

Co-Chairs

Sue Chiblow

Committee Members

Stanley Oliver

Suzie O'Bomsawin

Angel Ransom

Deana Sappier

Paul Jones

Melody Lepine

Jocelyn Gosselin

Rachel Olson

Impact Assessment Agency

Stewart Lindale

Susan Winger

Janice Zeitz

Erin Gilmer
Emily Fairbairn
Jennifer Saxe
Ian Ketcheson

Regrets

Kyle Vermette

Date modified:

2020-10-26