



Indigenous Circle of Experts & Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

Information Sheet

OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) was created as part of the Pathway to Canada Target 1 to develop a report providing advice to federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on how to achieve Canada Target 1 through the appropriate recognition of Indigenous leadership and knowledge systems in the conservation of the land and water. The release of the ICE Report is a watershed moment in both the history of conservation in Canada and the vital need for reconciliation between the conservation community and Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Canada Target 1 is one of a suite of national targets known as the “2020 Biodiversity Goals and Target for Canada” formed from the 20 global biodiversity targets that emerged from the international commitments of the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity known as the Aichi Targets. Canada Target 1 states: “By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.” The Pathway to Canada Target 1 and the ICE committee has focused on the terrestrial and inland waters aspects of Canada Target 1, while a separate process will be conducted to focus on the marine component.

ICE has developed a report describing the concept of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) in Canada with recommendations on how IPCAs can contribute to Target 1 while advancing the conservation and other community priorities of Indigenous governments to care for the land and water for generations to come.

What are IPCAs?

The ICE report describes the IPCA concept in more detail, including a comprehensive definition and key elements.

IPCAs prioritize the connection between a healthy environment and strong culture. In addition to setting out conservation objectives, IPCAs will emphasize the primary role of Indigenous governments and respect for Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems, support the revitalization of Indigenous language, create opportunities for sustainable conservation economies, apply holistic approaches to governance and planning, and respect protocols and ceremony.



Photo: Elder Joe Martin presenting in Ha'uukmin Tribal Park, Tla-o-qui-aht Territory

ETHICAL SPACE

The Pathway to Canada Target 1 process has operated within an Ethical Space whereby the integrity of Indigenous and western knowledge systems are respected and are equal. Ethical Space provides a venue for collaboration and advice, sharing and cross-validation.

Ethical Space, a gift shared by Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe, is created through a window, framed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and

Reconciliation Calls to Action & the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Canadian jurisprudence, section 35 of the Constitution Act, treaties and agreements or other constructive arrangements.

WHO IS ICE?

ICE is made up of twenty Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from different parts of the country. The committee is co-chaired by Danika Littlechild, a lawyer from Ermineskin Cree Nation in Treaty 6, and Eli Enns, a Nuu-chah-nulth Canadian political scientist from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and is comprised of Indigenous experts from across Canada and members from federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. More information about ICE is available here:

www.conservation2020canada.ca/ice#Bios. ICE is not a consultation body nor does it serve as a representative body of the perspective of the member's governments or organizations.



Photo: Co-chair Danika Littlechild leading a breakout group at the Northern Regional Gathering. Yellowknife, NWT

ICE hosted four regional gatherings from May to September 2017 to hear from Indigenous Peoples across the country on the concept of IPCAs and to inform the report with the best practices shared from the Indigenous conservation practitioners, Elders and others in attendance. The gatherings were hosted, according to the four directions: West (Tofino, BC), East (Digby, NS), North (Yellowknife, NWT) and Central/South (Winnipeg, MB). The learning shared in the gatherings was instrumental in shaping ICE's final report and recommendations.

REPORT OVERVIEW AND PUBLIC RELEASE

In addition to providing specific recommendations for successful IPCAs, the ICE report contains more detail on the concept of IPCAs, addresses the importance of reconciling some of Canada's dark histories of protected areas and provides information on how governments, organizations and institutions can become good partners in the establishment of successful IPCAs. The report is meant to be read in its entirety.

The ICE report includes twenty-eight recommendations on requirements to build successful IPCAs, reconciliation of existing areas, appropriate recognition of Indigenous-led initiatives and the role of partners. The recommendations are grouped into six themes: Reconciliation in Conservation, We Rise Together - 'Best Practices', Holistic and Integrated Approaches to Stewardship, Capacity Building, Sustained Funding and Implementation of Recommendations.

The report was released on March 28, 2018, following a ceremony led by Elders, which validated the report before public release. The report can be read here:

<http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/ice-resources>

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about ICE and IPCAs, please visit the following links:

Pathway to Canada Target 1:

<http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/who-we-are/#ICE>

Indigenous Circle of Experts on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianIPCAs>

Regional Gathering Summary Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THFAJS-XgVM>

Western Regional Gathering – Tofino, BC:

<https://youtu.be/zvw5djVRjE0>

Eastern Regional Gathering – Digby, NS:

https://youtu.be/R3IO_xSRJK0

Northern Regional Gathering – Yellowknife, NWT:

https://youtu.be/_Ci-RF5k-Fs

Central Regional Gathering – Winnipeg, MB:

<https://youtu.be/PyG0BI7wzC8>