

Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC)

Joint Terms of Reference

CONTEXT:

These terms of reference reflect the commitment by Inuit and the Crown to identify and take action on shared priorities through partnership. This partnership is based on the Government of Canada's special relationship with Inuit as Indigenous rights holders under the Constitution. Pursuant to this relationship, an Inuit Nunangat (the Inuit homeland) approach to policy development is necessary to advance shared priorities. The following permanent, bilateral committee ("Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee") is tasked with advancing this relationship and creating prosperity for Inuit which benefits all Canadians through the development of policy guidance, by taking action to advance shared policy priorities, and facilitating inter-agency collaboration.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) is to create prosperity for Inuit which benefits all Canadians through shared action. It will do so by identifying solutions, providing guidance, and addressing challenges shared by Inuit and the federal government. It is structured to ensure that we create success through a unified approach that is based on partnership and accountability.

PRINCIPLES:

The ICPC is outcomes-focused and its parties are committed to working together in the spirit of cooperation to advance shared priorities. The ICPC will operate on the principles of collaboration, consensus, transparency, fairness, partnership, and inclusion. Members will respect existing Inuit land claim agreements, Indigenous rights, and the human rights affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The work of the ICPC will enhance the federal government's whole of government approach to engaging with Indigenous peoples by introducing cooperation, implementation, and accountability to the vital work that is necessary to renew the relationship between Inuit and the Crown in a sustainable and positive way. This work will complement and not impede existing Inuit-federal/provincial/territorial work underway.

Proposals with significant policy and/or financial implications will require vetting through appropriate federal and Inuit government/organization policy approval processes.

MEMBERS:

The ICPC is comprised of Inuit leaders, the Prime Minister, and Government of Canada federal ministers identified in accordance with shared policy areas. Inuit leaders shall include the president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK); chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; president of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; president of the Makivik Corp.; and president of the Nunatsiavut Government. Presidents of the National Inuit Youth Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada, and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada shall have observer status.

OBJECTIVES:

In fulfilling its purpose, the ICPC shall:

- Identify shared priority areas for action;
- Develop work plans between members that structure partnership and action on shared priorities;
- Create accountability for success in shared priority areas by developing metrics for measuring success;
- Report on ICPC progress to relevant constituencies.

Initial key areas of focus will include the implementation of Inuit land claims agreements, socioeconomic and cultural development, and achieving reconciliation.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY RELATIONSHIPS:

Members are responsible for coordinating work plans, reporting activities, recommendations, and outcomes to their respective governments and organizations. Meeting minutes will be reviewed and agreed upon by all parties in a timely way.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee mechanism will enable annual priority setting, joint policy development, and measure progress against mutually agreed upon targets on an ongoing basis.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

The ICPC shall convene at least three meetings annually at locations determined by members. Co-chairs shall preside over meetings (annual meetings with the Prime Minister, bi-annual meetings with implicated Ministers). Co-chairs may also appoint a designate to preside over meetings in their stead. Individual members shall meet as needed on a rolling basis throughout the year in order to ensure continuity and progress on their respective work plans.

Quarterly meetings of relevant Assistant Deputy Ministers and the representatives of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and regional Inuit Land claim organizations and governments will be held to monitor and guide the work of technical level working groups composed of subject matter experts.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada will coordinate ICPC meeting logistics on behalf of the federal government as necessary. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami will provide complementary logistical support on behalf of Inuit leaders and organizations as called upon.

FUNDING AND RESOURCING:

The Parties will work to develop mutually acceptable work plans and budgets to support Inuit Nunangat government/organization participation in this mechanism. Any work plan, budget and funding agreement shall be consistent with the policies of the Government of Canada and the policies of Inuit Nunangat governments/organizations.

GENERAL:

The Terms of Reference may be updated and revised as needed with the agreement of all parties.

