

# CHARTER PARTNERS' PLANNING INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE INDIGENOUS INNOVATION

Growing Economic Wellbeing Through Increased Cooperation and Collaboration Among Indigenous Business, Communities and Post-secondary Research and Organizations.



**LUMINARY**

Advancing Indigenous Innovation for Economic Transformation, Employment and Wellbeing

 IndigenousWorks

# This is Your Invitation

As a Charter Partner you will participate in a 10-month initiative with the goal of developing a multi-year strategy and plan to advance Indigenous innovation.

This planning initiative builds on the Tri-Agency document released in January 'Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada'. It also builds on the 2019 Engagement Exercise conducted by Indigenous Works in concert with research funder Mitacs, which held three workshops across the country with leading academics, Indigenous businesses and community leaders to discuss ways of growing Indigenous-led research

collaborations and innovations. Workshop participants stated that increased Indigenous-led research and innovation can be a catalyst to Indigenous business, human resource development, economic prosperity and community wellbeing.

This planning initiative will identify developmental and foundational activities, services and potential mechanisms that facilitate opportunities for increased research collaboration and coordination among Canada's post-secondary researchers, research agencies and other organizations, Indigenous businesses and communities.

<sup>1</sup> The plan was released in January 2020 published by the federal research granting agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and fulfills a priority of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee to co-develop with Indigenous Peoples an interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation.

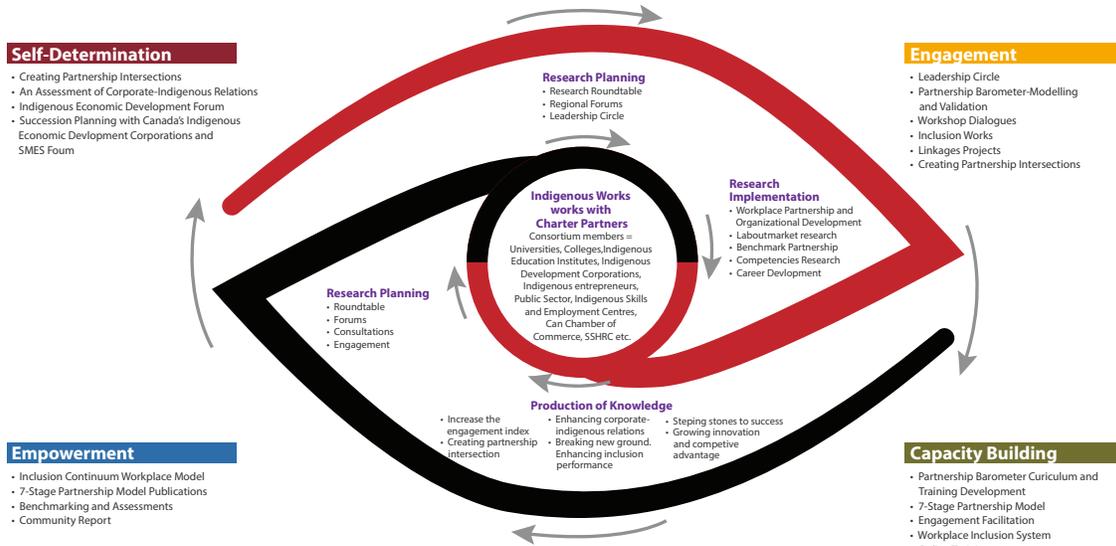


- Indigenous worldviews and models are needed in Indigenous-led research and innovation. Two-eyed seeing is a Mi'kmaw concept called 'Etuaptmunk'. It refers to learning where you

see from one eye with the strength of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strength of Western knowledge and ways of knowing;

Participatory Action Research with Indigenous Methodologies as

# Two-Eyed Seeing\*



\* Etuaptmunk is the Mi'kmaw word for Two-Eyed Seeing. We often explain Etuaptmunk - Two-Eyed Seeing by saying it refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

## Why This Planning Initiative Is Important To Canada's Innovation Agenda

- Indigenous Peoples continue to experience inequities characterized by significant socio-economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people;
- Innovation can grow Canada's competitive position in the world economy. Canada's innovation agenda and future economic prosperity must be inclusive;
- Economic reconciliation and inclusion are needed. Indigenous people want to grow their national and global businesses in ways which bring economic prosperity and wellbeing.



## Planning Activities

Over the ten months of the Planning Initiative we will have an opportunity to share information and perspectives, improve understanding, reframe the issues as needed and identify solutions.

### Charter Partners Will Consider and Discuss Questions Like These

- (i) How do we grow Indigenous research and innovation? What are the tools, mechanisms, programs and services needed?
- (ii) How can we address the academic/ Indigenous engagement and trust gap?
- (iii) How will we improve the capacity, readiness and leadership of all parties to coordinate and collaborate more effectively?
- (iv) How can Indigenous communities and businesses identify research priorities and are there opportunities for research clusters to develop? How do we grow Indigenous research and innovation talent?

The insights and answers to these and other questions will help shape the strategy and plan that will best address the issues and opportunities we see to advance Indigenous innovation.

## Roles

### Indigenous Works will facilitate this Planning Initiative in these ways.

- Seek funding support to undertake an orderly planning process;
- Provide background documents and information which will inform discussions;
- Organize, facilitate and document regional forums, workshops or other engagement sessions with Indigenous businesses and organizations, academia and other key stakeholders;
- Invite Discussion Papers and other submissions that will inform on the strategy and plan with appropriate programs and services;
- Provide regular updates and communications about this initiative;
- Provide administrative and management support for the orderly progression of this initiative;
- Produce the final document(s) that describe the Strategy and Plan to Advance Indigenous Innovation.

As Charter Partners work on this Planning Initiative, Indigenous Works is also completing two projects, one with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the other with Mitacs. Insights from these projects will be shared with Charter Partners further adding to the information available to build the Strategy and Plan to advance Indigenous innovation.



## Charter Partners will work with Indigenous Works to:

- Provide advice, ideas and information in a timely way;
- Showcase their support and commitment to this planning initiative;
- Identify ways of enhancing this initiative;
- Provide input on a process to articulate the issues which will drive the different lines of inquiry leading to the strategy and plan for Indigenous Innovation;
- Engage in thoughtful and respectful exchange and pool information, ideas and materials relevant to this planning initiative;
- Participate in various governance opportunities for this planning initiative including steering and advisory committees, and take part in focus groups;
- Identify up to two Points of Contact and commit to regular attendance at meetings, planning sessions, adhere to timelines, etc.;
- Provide a copy of your company or organization's logo for use in communications and marketing about this Planning Initiative.

Charter partners do not have to provide financial support to the ten-month planning initiative but are kindly asked to provide in-kind support for people's time and travel costs for planning sessions and forums.



## Charter Partners' Planning Initiative

Your organization's name here

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We are pleased to join this Planning Initiative as a CHARTER PARTNER. We welcome the opportunity to engage in thoughtful and respectful exchange and to developing a multi-year Strategy and Plan to advance Indigenous innovation.

The Strategy and Plan we build together will identify developmental and foundational activities, services and potential mechanisms that facilitate opportunities for increased research collaboration and coordination among Indigenous businesses and communities, Canada's post-secondary researchers, research agencies and other organizations.

We wish to make a meaningful commitment and play a role towards Indigenous economic inclusion and reconciliation. We support research collaborations premised on the principle of 'Two-Eyed Seeing', respecting the value of Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.

We are supportive of this mission and I/ (We) will participate in this ten-month Planning Initiative.

Signature(s)<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Division/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

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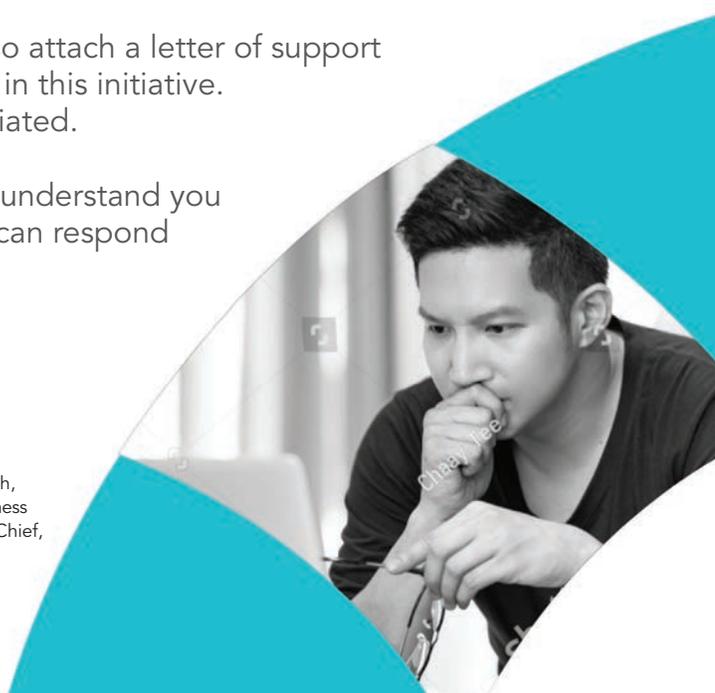
Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

More signatories may be added if you wish. You may also attach a letter of support or other details about the interest your organization has in this initiative. Any additional details or suggestions are greatly appreciated.

**RSVP:** We are in extraordinary times with Covid-19 and understand you need time to review and discuss these initiatives. If you can respond within 4-6 weeks that would be appreciated.

**Please return this signed page to Micheline Bélanger by email at [micheline@chelsea-group.net](mailto:micheline@chelsea-group.net)**

<sup>3</sup> The signatories from Academic Institutions could include the President, Vice-President Research, Provost, Dean. Signatories from Indigenous business, community leaders and mainstream business could include: President, Vice-President, National Manager/Coordinator, Board Chair/Vice-Chair, Chief, Councillor, Indigenous leader. You may include more than one signatory.



**Indigenous Works** is an award-winning national Indigenous not for profit organization that is ISO 9001 certified (quality management system). We are governed by an Indigenous Board of Directors with private sector, Indigenous economic development corporations and independent directors. We were founded as a non-profit national organization in 1998 as a recommendation from the 1996 Report on the Royal Commission on Indigenous Peoples with a mandate to increase Indigenous engagement in the Canadian economy.

We provide advisory services to private sector, Indigenous groups, government and post-secondary institutions. We have developed a product and

service suite for Indigenous human resource management and engagement/ partnership specialists. Under its former name 'Aboriginal Human Resource Council', Indigenous Works spent 20 years focused on inclusion strategies and indigenous workplace development.

Indigenous Works has a research arm which has done a number of innovative national research projects. In 2018 we were awarded Institutional Eligibility Status by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

[www.indigenousworks.ca](http://www.indigenousworks.ca)

## Contact us for more information.

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Kelly J. Lendsay  
President and CEO  
[Klendsay@indigenousworks.ca](mailto:Klendsay@indigenousworks.ca)  
1.306.291.0424

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Craig Hall  
Chief Operating Officer  
[Chall@indigenousworks.ca](mailto:Chall@indigenousworks.ca)  
1.902.665.2257

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