

**Implementation workshop: Linking Indigenous Communities with  
Regional Development Global Study**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 17 July (15:00 to 17:30)**

**Canadian delegation**

**Avenue de l'Ariana, 1202 Geneva**

<b>Welcome</b>	Dawn Madahbee Leach (Vice Chair, National Indigenous Economic Development Board, Canada) and Patrick Watson (Manager, Innovation at CIRNAC)	<b>15.00 – 15.15</b>
<b>Next steps and options</b>	Lisanne Raderschall, Policy Analyst CFE and Chris McDonald, Project Coordinator	<b>15.15 – 15.30</b>
<b>Roundtable</b>	Interventions and discussion with participants	<b>15.30 – 16.00</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Identify actions and mechanisms where the OECD can add value in terms of issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistical frameworks and data sovereignty</li><li>• Indigenous entrepreneurship and small business</li><li>• Managing and developing Indigenous lands and waters</li></ul> [See attached background briefing]	<b>16.00 – 17.15</b>
<b>Summary / wrap up</b>	Dawn Madahbee Leach (Vice Chair, National Indigenous Economic Development Board, Canada) and Chris McDonald, Project Coordinator, CFE	<b>17.15 – 17.30</b>

## **Implementation and next steps – OECD Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development, 10 July 2019**

### **Purpose**

1. To outline potential options for the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) to support knowledge sharing and action to improve Indigenous economic development policies.

### **Background**

2. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to develop better public policies with member countries, business, unions and other stakeholders. The OECD works to establish international norms and find evidence-based solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges.
3. The OECD Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) was established in 1999 and is a unique international forum that focuses on the development of regions within countries, and draws on innovative statistical work to understand key challenges and policy solutions for urban and rural areas.
4. The *Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development Project* started in September 2017 at Wendake First Nation, Quebec with Indigenous representatives and policy makers participating from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Peru, Sweden, and the United States.
5. The purpose of the project is to develop policy recommendations at a global and national level to improve economic development outcomes for indigenous people by better linking them with regional and rural development efforts. The project focuses on four key themes:
  - Improving Indigenous statistics and data governance;
  - Creating an enabling environment for Indigenous entrepreneurs and small business;
  - Support better measures to recognise, manage and develop Indigenous lands; and,
  - Implementing a place-based approach to economic development in partnership with Indigenous peoples.
6. The OECD has deployed a range of methods to undertake this work, which includes:
  - Survey to member and non-member countries (14 respondents)
  - Fact finding missions to countries (Australia, Canada, Sweden and the United States) including Indigenous peer reviewers and experts
  - Policy workshop with the European Commission on Indigenous peoples in the European Arctic (with representatives from Denmark/Greenland, Norway, Sweden and Finland)

7. The project has/will release the following outputs:
  - Global study (released July 2019)
  - Country case study of Sweden (released February 2019), and country case studies for Australia and Canada (to be released in early 2020)
  - Proceedings from workshops and events.

### Options and next steps

8. The rationale/ value-add for the OECD to continue work in this space can be summarised in three points:
  - Production of internationally comparative data that enables an objective assessment of Indigenous economic development policies by an international institution with considerable weight in public policy debates.
  - Creation of a platform for peer review, exchange of leading policy practices and experiences between Indigenous community leaders, policy makers and experts, which can be used to address shared challenges.
  - Highlighting the importance of a policy area to domestic and international audience, and give momentum to reform efforts within countries.
9. There are a number of options to continue international collaboration on Indigenous economic development issues within the framework of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC):
  - Option 1 - Policy workshops: in countries throughout 2019 on the global findings and holding events to provide opportunities for dialogue between Indigenous leaders, government authorities, and industry on high-level policy implications and possible ways of implementation. The OECD could produce some short proceedings from these workshops/ roundtables.
  - Option 2 – Further country case studies: 2 to 4 countries participate in a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of country case studies and peer review. This could commence in the second half of 2019, depending upon interest and commitment.
  - Option 3 – Thematic analysis: OECD Secretariat undertakes deeper technical work on agreed topics of interest between countries to identify leading practices, share lessons, and provide recommendations (e.g. Development Co-operation, Indigenous business data, measuring and comparing well-being outcomes, sustainable tourism, land tenure security and development, access to finance, financial literacy, preferential procurement, benefit-sharing).
  - Option 4 – Facilitating a global network of Indigenous economic development organisations (Indigenous chambers of commerce, tourism organisations, Indigenous financial institutions) that can support knowledge sharing, exchange and capacity building. This could take the form of an on-line platform, an annual event, and seek to support existing Indigenous-led initiatives such as the World Indigenous Business Forum.