



Indigenous Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

General

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada (“the Federation”) is committed to fostering truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Our commitment informs all aspects of our work. Fulfilling this commitment will require ongoing expertise and insights from a variety of sources. The Federation understands that collaborating with Indigenous Peoples will be essential to ensuring our reconciliation work is meaningful and well informed. Creating an Indigenous Advisory Council is one of the means through which the Federation aims to support these efforts and ensure our organization stays focused on its reconciliation goals.

Mandate

The mandate of the Indigenous Advisory Council is to provide advice and guidance to Federation Council, staff and national committees on initiatives aimed at fulfilling the Federation’s commitment to reconciliation. This includes being a source of guidance and feedback on proposed program initiatives falling within the mandates of national committees, and on existing or proposed Federation processes and policies. It may also include making recommendations to Federation Council on effective engagement strategies with Indigenous stakeholders or on other issues the Advisory Council considers appropriate.

The Federation will also welcome guidance from the Indigenous Advisory Council on how to nurture and support existing relationships with Indigenous Peoples and how to promote the building of new partnerships and/or relationships. Where appropriate, the Federation may request that the Indigenous Advisory Council act as a bridge to help connect the Federation with individuals and/or Indigenous legal organizations.

Composition

The Indigenous Advisory Council will be comprised between 8 and 10 Indigenous members.

Membership will be regionally, culturally, age and gender diverse to ensure First Nation, Metis and Inuit voices and perspectives are represented at the table.

Membership should also represent diverse perspectives from within the legal profession, including (but not limited to);

- Indigenous legal practitioners;
- Indigenous law students;
- Indigenous legal scholars;
- Current or past Indigenous law society staff or benchers; and/or
- Indigenous adjudicators.

At least one member of the Indigenous Advisory Council will be a member of an Indigenous community who is not a member of the legal profession.

Members will be appointed for a three-year term with the possibility of renewal.

Leadership and Relationship with Federation Council and Committees

The Indigenous Advisory Council has the discretion to determine the leadership structure that will suit its needs.

The Indigenous Advisory Council will be invited to send a representative to each Federation Council meeting. Federation Council will also designate one of its members to serve as a liaison between the Indigenous Advisory Council and Federation Council.

Federation staff will facilitate direct engagement between the IAC and Federation committees and leadership as appropriate.

Meetings

The Indigenous Advisory Council has the discretion to determine its own meeting structure and protocols.

Meetings of the Indigenous Advisory Council will be held in person or electronically, the frequency and timing of which will be determined in consultation with Federation staff.

Support for the Indigenous Advisory Council

The Indigenous Advisory Council will be provided with appropriate financial and other resources, including Federation staff support

