



Indigenous Evaluation Network

Presentation to ISC Senior Management

30 April 2024, 9:00 AM - 9:20 AM EST

The Canadian Encyclopedia, Indigenous Peoples in Canada,
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-people>

First and Foremost: Our Supporters

- Elders / Cultural Teachers
- Volunteers
- Partners
- Participants / Community Members
- Funders / Sponsors

You can see visiting our website for my information.

<https://www.indigenouseval.org/>

What is the IEN?

- The Indigenous Evaluation Network works to connect Indigenous evaluators across Canada and the world.
- The network enables new, emerging, and experienced Indigenous evaluators and Indigenous program service providers to connect, network, build capacity, engage in mentorship, and expand the field of Indigenous evaluation by providing a central resource and hosting networking opportunities for the benefit of Indigenous communities.
- There are over 250 IEN members who are Indigenous and / or Non-Indigenous professionals.

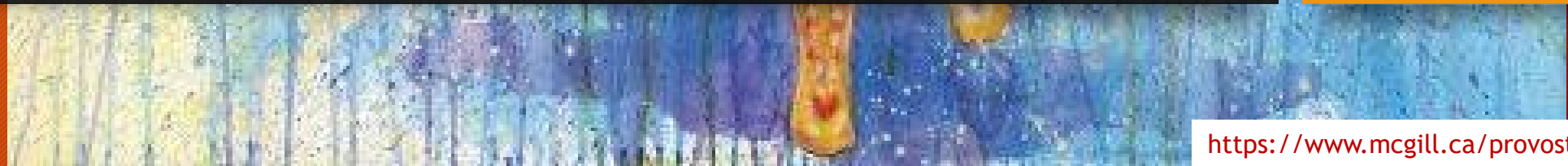


Charting a New Path Together

- The Indigenous Evaluation Network is beginning a new journey, having opened its doors in April 2024, the Network has already begun to chart its immediate and short-term milestones.
- What have we done and where are we going.
 - Accomplishments in 2024
 - Plans for 2025



Our 2024 Accomplishments



Report on the 2024 Indigenous Evaluation Summit

- We were blessed with a grand opening for the IEN and IES simultaneously:
 - Grandma Elder Pauline Shirt, Nehiyaw Iskwew
 - Elder of the Plains Cree Red-tail Hawk clan, Pauline Shirt was born and raised in Saddle Lake Reserve, Alberta, member of the Three Fires Society and the Buffalo Dance Society, and founder of the First Nations School and the Red Willow.
- We met with over 225 delegates while hosting 45 Indigenous youth, and eight presentation panelists, including:
 - Dan George (keynote), Indigenous Services Canada, PRA Inc., The MindFuel Foundation, Workforce Warriors Inc., Notah Begay III Foundation, Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHRs), University of Washington, Johnston Research Inc.



Report on the 2024 Indigenous Evaluation Summit, *continued*

- We also hosted four Elders and Special Guests Rooms, including:
 - Public Safety Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Public Service Commission of Canada Affiliations: Federal Government, Story Medicine by Alyssa Wapanatahk, Grandma Elder Pauline Shirt, Nehiyaw, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Restorative Justice Program.
- As well we hosted two lunch-time networking hours, covering:
 - 1) Sovereignty / Self-determination and what this means for Indigenous Peoples
 - 2) Youth: Why it is important and valuable to include youth in evaluation roles.
 - 3) Elders: Positioning Elders as leaders in evaluation practices, how do we become more inclusive of Elders and these important roles?
 - 4) Ceremony: The importance of ceremony in Indigenous evaluation
- Finally, we started the conversation with all delegates on the Indigenous Governance of the Indigenous Evaluation Network.

- Lunch and Learn series, three options:
 1. Evaluations that know the evaluation respondents but are beginners in Indigenous Evaluation
 2. Evaluations that know the evaluation respondents but are advanced in Indigenous Evaluation
 3. Evaluations that do not know who the evaluation respondents
- Presentations on the Indigenous Evaluation Network, accepting every opportunity.

Completed a
year of
support to
evaluators
and
Indigenous
communities

Presented to the Indigenous Caucus Nov'24

- 2024 Housing Central Conference, BC Non-Profit Housing Association
 - Flew to Vancouver, British Columbia
 - Addressed a room of 80 - 90 Indigenous housing and homelessness program staff and leadership.
 - On the note of sharing Indigenous evaluation tools with the room, one delegate stated:

“How come this information and tools have taken so long to get to me?”



Truly birthing a Network: Lunch n Learn 2024

- IEN complete 18 Lunch n Learn sessions for 2024.
- First, we provided an open forum for members to freely express themselves in a group setting.
- Then we asked them to write back to us either in their notebooks we provided to them and or in an email with a few lines on what the Lunch n Learn meant to them.
- At the last session, we asked members to tell IEN what next steps it should take for 2025.
- When it came to collating the comments we received, IEN shared the file on Google so everyone could edit the outcomes report freely.

Lunch n Learn Outcomes Report

From the 18 sessions held in 2024 the following outcomes were shared by the participants by email as comments after a session.

Outcome Theme	Number of Participants
A belief in a larger purpose and feeling supported from a network of evaluators	15
Commitment and Intention to Make Institutional Changes	13
Learning new information	13
Adding new tools to one's toolbox	12
Positive Impact on Encouraging Thinking and Re-Thinking	9
Positive Impact on Advancing Professional Skills	9

Smaller numbers, but big impacts

Six institutions asked to be more formally involved with IEN.

- Including supporting the institutions' team with the learning of ways Indigenous knowledge informs their everyday evaluation practice.
- Excitingly, two others offered their institutions to the IEN for the implementation of any projects and or work initiatives the IEN would undertake.
- A fourth institution, volunteered to act as a Liaison between IEN and ISC.
- A fifth institution, volunteered their time to enhance the capacity within IEN.
- A sixth institution, volunteers to support IEN up to 5 hours a month.

IEN has a formal partnership with CES-NCC

IEN has joined the CES Mentorship Committee

IEN Summer Institute 2024

- Summer 2024 in-person meeting
 - Two institutions' staff and managers, focused on the decolonization of their evaluation practices.
 - A committee of Elders, Youth and former IEN Planning Committee members to support the dialogue and shape the process.
- Meeting Outcomes:
 - Created enthusiasm for Indigenous Evaluation and its expansion
 - Produced a report on Decolonizing Evaluation Practices in Canadian Institutions
 - Produced a checklist template geared at the decolonization of institutions, applying the lens of Indigenous evaluation perspectives.



Completion of our Indigenous Governance tasks

- To define and implement our approach as an Indigenous independent non-profit organization (soon to be charity).
- We have retained an accountant to close out our first year in May 2024, and work towards our charity status.
- We have a Board of Directors in place and part of their work will define membership and support our Indigenous governance structure.



The continued expansion of existing tools and templates

Awakening the Journey Vision Model

Within the Awakening the Journey Model the primary measurement is progress. While the Indigenous Guardians may take numerous steps forward in meeting their specific goals and objectives, the measure of progress takes into consideration the act of taking steps backwards due to unexpected challenges. This allows for the ceremony of initiative goals to play itself out by the rhythms determined by wholistic, natural situations within expansive concepts of time. The application of the dimensions (Beginning / Past, Present Experiences, Transition, and Future State) in the Guardians projects will be revealed through the collection of primary data and reported in the evaluation report. The data analysis matrices will be shared with the client team for review before the final reporting stage.

Dimension	PROGRESS			
Spirit	Project activities begin in ceremony	Funding arrangements are flexible and reflect the intervention context	Time for reflection is built into the process from a place of spirit	Planning is done from a place of spirit first and foremost
Relationship	Relationships are built on Indigenous values and culture	Relationships are conducted in a manner that reflects Indigenous ways of knowing and doing	Relationships are supportive allowing for reflection and ethical space	Plans are made within relationships as equals applying principles of ethical space and Indigenous position
Process	Processes reflect Indigenous practices and community strengths	Processes are experienced by target audience from a place that is molded by cultural ways of being and community building	Processes are evaluated using Indigenous values and community sovereignty	Planning is made from a place of community strengths, opportunities, and sovereignty
the unknown / Waabagiighic / naas na ulth	Looking back with an open mind and welcoming a new outlook - it's conducting self evaluation	Keeping that space open for the new day and new spirit - accepting our strengths and feeding our spirits	Being on top of things but recognizing we don't know everything. Prepare ourselves for each day.	Welcoming that new Clear Shining Day in a journey that is not static or singular, its dynamic.
Time	Beginning / Past	Experiences / Present	Transition	Future / Current State

Johnston Research Inc., Honouring Reconciliation in Evaluation: Indigenous Evaluation Frameworks. *Awakening the Journey Vision Model*, March 2022©

** This model was tested by JRI managed demonstration projects from 2021 to 2023; in addition to other projects managed and contracted under JRI.



INDIGENOUS PLANNING:

Plans for 2025

Lunch n Learn in 2025

The Lunch and Learn event was deemed highly successful

- The approach IEN applied enabled opportunities for learning as well as networking
- It was determined that 2 - 3 larger Lunch n Learns should be targeted for 2025.
- **Certificates of Participation** are awarded to those who attend almost all to all sessions in a calendar year.
- Each event should surround special dates throughout the year, such as Indigenous Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day.
- Use social media and ask partners and allies to advertise the events.



Lunch n Learn Roll-out

- In celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st: IEN Lunch n Learn will meet on

**June 18, 2025, at 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST -
Topic: Data Sovereignty and Ownership**

- In honour of Joseph's Day (originally September 24th) and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: IEN Lunch n Learn will meet on:

**Sept. 25th, 2025, at 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST
- Topic: Trauma-informed Evaluation**

- In recognition of International Inuit Day on November 7th the 3rd IEN Lunch n Learn will meet on:

**Nov. 5, 2025, 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST -
Successful Evaluations in Inuit Contexts**

- Taglines will be developed for each event, such as,

- “Assisting organizations in applying Truth and Reconciliation initiatives through evaluation.”
- “Supporting organizations in effecting change by providing actionable steps.”



Key Strategies for IEN in 2025

Input from 2024 Lunch n Learn Participants asked IEN to focus on:

- Generating momentum leading up to IEN Summit 2026.
- Strategically increasing participation in meetings.
- Establishing a community of practice to share successful strategies and encourage supportive learning.
- IEN website serving as a platform for initiating discussions and sustaining its relevance to the community. A dedicated section on the website is required to document ongoing work and connect to training activities, as well as to identify additional avenues for connection.
- Prioritize the promotion of collaboration while maintaining connections to facilitate continuous learning and growth.



IEN Website listing opportunity for Everyone

Two Listings:

1. To support Indigenous evaluators (with Indigenous ancestry) by featuring a registration page to capture their posted name, title, association, and brief description.
2. To engage allies who can contribute to the network, IEN will post a separate similar listing for non-Indigenous individuals involved in the network.

LEARN MORE >

Creating Co-Creating Opportunities Globally

Early [Stage 1] Targets for 2025:

1. Allocating a presentation slot for an international Indigenous evaluator to share insights from an international evaluation project.
2. Reserving 1-2 slots for mentees of international Indigenous evaluators when implementing the Indigenous evaluator mentoring strategy. The Commonwealth Secretariat Youth Group serves as an appropriate starting point.
3. Approaching 1-2 international Indigenous evaluators to serve as mentors.
4. Develop a strategy outlining our offerings, such as providing materials for constructive feedback.

Solutions:

STEP 1: EvalIndigenous, led by Larry Bremner, engages in multidisciplinary global outreach, and it is advisable for IEN to meet with him to explore synergies and avoid redundancy in efforts.

Possible STEP 2: The IOCE has solicited international communities to identify organizations in need of evaluation frameworks, with selected organizations receiving support from Indigenous students who could also serve as IEN mentees.

2024 Strategic Planning Implementation

It is imperative to share our tools and narrative, illustrating the origins and evolution of the IEN.

- We will convene a planning committee for Summit 2026.
- Pursue the IEN charity status.
- Design a mentoring program for young and upcoming Indigenous evaluators and or develop and implement the Indigenous Evaluators Placement Support by:
 1. Equipping Canadian organizations with essential resources for implementing TRC and UNDRIP principles in their practices.
 2. Providing Indigenous youth and emerging evaluators with employment opportunities in these institutions, helping them develop as skilled professionals in the evaluation sector.
 3. Enabling them to acquire the necessary skills to implement the Assessment Tool within Canadian organizations.