

Memorandum

To: Stakeholder Advisory Committee

From: Candice Trickey, Director, Corporate Affairs

Date: November 3, 2020

Re: IESO Business Update – Indigenous Energy Support Programs

The following provides an update to members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) on the revised Indigenous Energy Support Programs (ESPs).

Program Overview

The IESO offers Indigenous Energy Support Programs with the goal of supporting community capacity building. The four programs offered to Indigenous communities and organizations include:

- The *Community Energy Champion (CEC) program*, which provides funding for a dedicated energy worker in a community or organization;
- The *Indigenous Community Energy Plan (ICEP) program*, which provides funding for communities to determine community energy needs and priorities;
- The *Education and Capacity Building (ECB) program*, which provides funding for initiatives such as workshops or skills training, intended to meet community capacity needs; and
- The *Indigenous Energy Projects (IEP) program*, which provides funding for development costs and partnerships for renewable, transmission, or innovative projects.

Review, Purpose and Process

In 2020, the IESO undertook a review and redesign of its four ESPs. The objectives of this process were to advance community-led capacity building, foster better communication and information-sharing amongst communities and with the IESO, and increase program accessibility, transparency and clarity.

In early 2020, a survey was issued to past program participants as well as other Indigenous communities and organizations. This survey sought input on the existing suite of programs in terms of accessibility and meeting capacity building needs. With the information gathered

through this survey, the IESO proposed revisions to these programs, and presented these at a webinar on July 24 for input from communities and stakeholders. Using the input from this webinar, the IESO finalized the program designs, and presented the new programs to communities and stakeholders on September 28.

Revised Programs

Through the revisions to the programs, the IESO has created better alignment between programs. The Community Energy Champion (CEC) becomes the starting point for the programs by creating internal capacity that can support the community in achieving energy priorities as the community progresses through the other three programs.

Changes to the ICEP, ECB and IEP programs improve the clarity around IESO definitions and expectations for the programs. To support highly qualified CECs, the updates to the CEC program include offering a salary top-up for CECs with certain qualifications and expanding the training that is offered to CECs by the IESO, free of charge. Additionally, the IESO will be introducing an online engagement tool to enable CECs to support each other through a network, and to support ongoing communications with the IESO.

Next Steps

The IESO released the revised program documents on October 20 with the programs open for intake until November 13. Following intake, the IESO will conduct completeness reviews, then applications will be reviewed by an internal review community for approval. Successful applicants will be notified before December 31, 2020.