

The Co-Development Principles outlined in this document provide guidance for collaborative work undertaken by Inuit and federal partners, including but not restricted to the work of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, as well as co-development undertaken pursuant to the Inuit Nunangat Policy. This includes the development of content for federal legislation, regulations, policies, programs, services, and initiatives, and monitoring and evaluation criteria (collectively referred to as “initiatives” or “processes” below). These principles shall be read together with the guiding principles of the Inuit Nunangat Policy.

Inuit-Crown co-development is informed by a distinctions-based approach premised on the legal, political, social and economic circumstances of Inuit. Inuit, for the purposes of these co-development principles, are the Indigenous People enrolled as members in four Inuit Treaty Organizations (ITOs): Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation, and Nunatsiavut Government. ITOs are the legal representatives of Inuit in their relationship with the Crown.

ITOs come together to form the voting members of the boards of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada (ICC-C). ITK is the national Inuit representative organization. ICC-C works to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region by, in part, promoting Inuit rights and interests on an international level.

The Crown is represented by the applicable federal department or departments and their respective Ministers. Other parties may be invited to inform discussions and will only join co-development by mutual agreement of co-development partners.

These principles are premised on respect and support for the interrelated and interdependent rights of Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and participation in decision-making in matters affecting their rights. Therefore, in addition to guiding co-development processes, these principles are consistent with, and serve to help implement the *U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Partners engaged in co-development initiatives shall pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of Inuit elders, women, youth, children, gender diverse persons, and persons with disabilities, and build upon the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ Calls to Justice.

Since 2016, the term co-development has been used to describe the process of designing and developing a range of legislative, program and policy initiatives undertaken by the Government of Canada in partnership with Inuit. The following principles build on work to date, are inclusive of lessons learned, and aim to shape effective co-development between Inuit and federal partners.

Co-development is premised on the fact that Inuit are the most knowledgeable about the issues affecting their communities, regions, and society and are the experts in designing initiatives that are best suited to Inuit individuals, families, and communities. Successful co-development consequently results in initiatives that are aligned with Inuit rights and priorities and are more effective and impactful than initiatives of general application.



These principles will be implemented through policy-based guidance. Inuit and federal departments will create or modify policy instruments to ensure these principles are interpreted and applied by partners in a manner that enables successful and consistent co-development processes and outcomes.

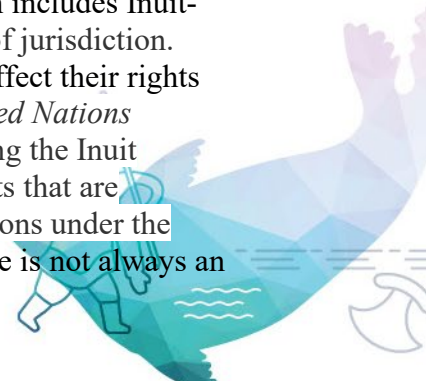
Inuit-Crown Co-Development Principles

Inuit-Crown co-development

- 1. Co-development is the process by which Inuit and the Crown work together in good faith to advance shared objectives, including to amend or modify existing initiatives or develop new ones:** ITOs and the Crown jointly determine which initiatives shall be co-developed. Co-development shall be considered a preferred approach to developing options for consideration by respective decision-makers within Inuit and federal governance structures and authorities. To make co-development initiatives/processes as collaborative and open as possible, decision-makers are encouraged to exercise discretion to enhance full participation in co-development by Inuit and federal partners. Inuit-Crown co-development shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Inuit Nunangat Policy.
- 2. Co-development is substantive and maximizes collaboration:** Co-development represents a commitment to develop effective solutions for advancing shared priorities. Co-development is not the same as consultation or engagement processes, which are typically designed and implemented by one party. Co-development and these principles do not replace the Duty to Consult, Canada's fiduciary obligations or other commitments to Inuit unless specifically agreed. Either party may propose a co-development initiative or invite the other to pursue co-development, and either party may decline.

Co-development and Inuit rights

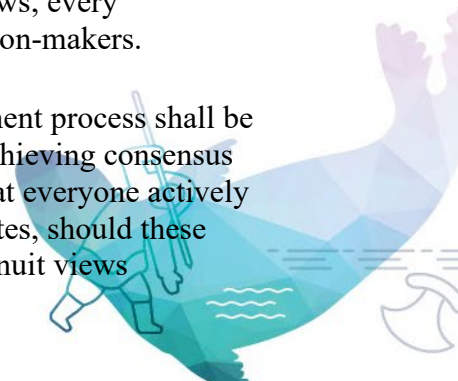
- 3. Prioritizing human rights:** Co-development processes are premised on respect and support for the right of Inuit to self-determination and self-government, and therefore serve to help implement human rights affirmed in human rights declarations and international human rights treaties. Co-development processes shall be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with and builds upon minimum rights standards, and to prioritize, wherever applicable, opportunities to implement specific human rights obligations.
- 4. Complementing Inuit rights:** Co-development processes shall uphold the Indigenous rights recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which includes Inuit-Crown treaties and the inherent right to self-government and related areas of jurisdiction. Further, co-development enables Inuit participation in matters that would affect their rights and it is therefore integral for implementing the rights affirmed by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as well as for implementing the Inuit Nunangat Policy. Co-development does not abrogate or derogate from rights that are recognized and affirmed by Section 35, nor does it alter any party's obligations under the Inuit-Crown treaties or self-government agreements. Recognizing that there is not always an



equal balance of power between Inuit and federal partners, federal partners shall seek opportunities to remove barriers to full participation within co-development processes wherever possible.

Working together to co-develop

5. **Active leadership:** Co-development processes enable the development of options that inform decision-making with respect to co-developed initiatives. Inuit leaders and federal decision-makers must be actively engaged in co-development processes and shall direct their respective delegates to engage in co-development initiatives, strengthen partnerships, advance consensus-making through political dialogue, and advance decision-making related to co-development outcomes. Active and fully informed leadership helps ensure co-development initiatives have the political support and direction needed to succeed, including by resolving disputes if and when they arise.
6. **Joint design and delivery:** Inuit and federal partners shall work together from the earliest stages to design and advance co-development initiatives, including making joint decisions within the scope of each initiative. Key elements include ongoing discussion and agreement on the objectives, desired outcomes, and the extent or boundaries of co-development. Related activities outside of the initiative (such as Inuit-led community engagement or funding allocation processes), shall be discussed for their contributions to the process, and the use of constraints (such as confidentiality agreements) shall be jointly developed. The nature and scope of co-development will be dependent on established federal and Inuit authorities, as well as those obtained for a given initiative. Consistent with the Inuit Nunangat Policy and the obligation to respect and support Inuit rights, including self-determination within the co-development initiative, Inuit and federal partners will identify the most appropriate mechanism to support Inuit rights.
7. **Working in good faith:** Co-development is premised on working together in good faith. This requires partners to work together with honour and integrity as well as to be transparent, collaborative, and proactive throughout all stages of co-development. In practical terms, this means that Inuit and federal partners shall share information with each other and with their respective leaders about an initiative early on and continuously, including clear and formal expectations related to information sharing and intended objectives. Except in rare situations where it is impossible or impracticable to do so, partners shall be involved in an initiative from the conceptual stage and in every step thereafter. Further, it means that Inuit and federal partners agree to work together to maximize collaboration within co-development, including not unduly or prematurely invoking constraints (e.g. Parliamentary privilege). Joint materials shall be developed and used whenever possible in order to support transparency and the full exchange of views. To reflect the intentions and nuances of partners' views, every opportunity will be sought to present these perspectives directly to decision-makers.
8. **Consensus-based approach:** All substantive aspects of the co-development process shall be developed and determined by consensus of Inuit and federal partners. Achieving consensus means working in good faith to explore options and identify solutions that everyone actively supports. Partners will work collaboratively to resolve impasses or disputes, should these arise. Regular check-ins will help to optimize results. Both federal and Inuit views



(including objections) shall be clearly reflected in materials for decision by leaders. In principle, no initiative shall be characterized as co-development without the clear support of Inuit and federal partners.

9. **Respect for governance and decision-making:** Co-development processes improve Inuit and federal decision-making by providing accurate and transparent information to leaders prior to a decision being made. Inuit and federal partners acknowledge that partners work within the context of their respective internal governance models and operational structures, including Inuit governance and Canada’s existing legal and constitutional framework. This acknowledgement recognizes that governance models and structures will continue to evolve, including as a result of the recognition and assertion of Inuit self-determination. Co-development partners will recognize and respect respective operational and governance processes – including to respect the time that might be required for internal engagement and decision-making, while prioritizing timely sharing of information and relevant documents.

10. **Recognizing resourcing requirements:** To address power imbalances and enable full and effective Inuit participation in co-development initiatives, adequate resourcing is needed to support co-development processes. This includes federal funding allocated to Inuit partners, in accordance with a self-determined approach, to enable Inuit-led engagement in support of co-development.

