



Treasury Board of Canada  
Secrétariat

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Canada

# Access to Information Review

Presentation to the National Claims Research Workshop

19 October 2022

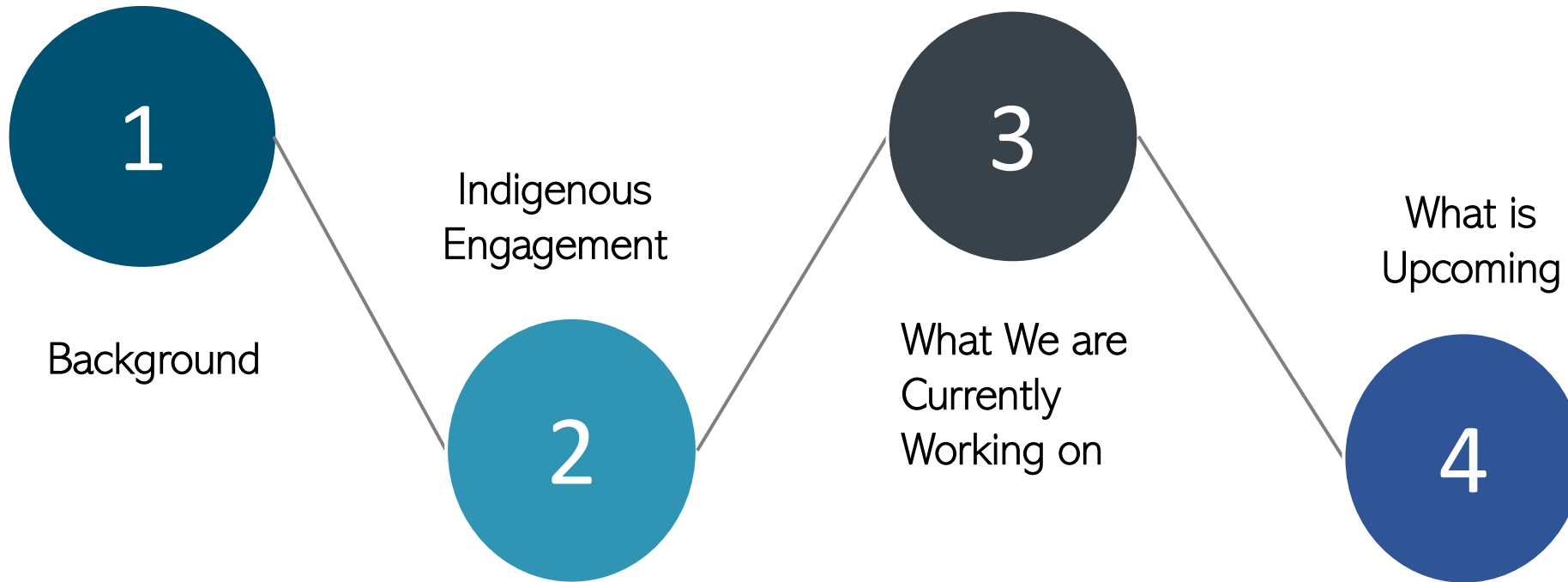
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Office of the Chief Information Officer of Canada

# Agenda

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# Background

## Bill C-58 (2019)

## Access to Information Review (2020 – Present)

## Strengthening Relationships (Ongoing)

### Bill C-58

- As noted by NCRD, Indigenous peoples did not feel that they were consulted enough, and the process was in opposition to Canada's commitment to a Nation-to-Nation relationship.
- Indigenous peoples have noted their issues with ATI were not considered in the development of the Bill.
- During the Bill C-58 process, we specifically committed to consulting with Indigenous peoples on addressing their unique issues and concerns with access to information.

### ATI Review

- Public engagement concluded in August 2020. Indigenous engagement took place from Spring to Fall 2022.
- First full review of ATI committed to examining Indigenous peoples' ATI issues.
- TBS accepted written submissions and held bilateral meetings.
- TBS also leveraged the work and engagement led by Justice Canada related to Privacy Act modernization.

### Ongoing

- How do we engage Indigenous groups and representatives on an ongoing basis to work through ATI areas of focus and advance the policy areas noted in the review work?

# Indigenous Engagement

Following the launch of the Review in June 2020:

- The President of the Treasury Board invited the 5 National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs) to participate in the Review
- The ADM also invited the participation of 12 Indigenous Organizations (IOs) with technical expertise and interest in ATI
- The President of the Treasury Board also invited 36 Modern Treaty and Self-Government Holders (MTSGHs)

Cumulatively, TBS has:

- Received 8 formal submissions from Indigenous governing bodies and organizations
- Held bilateral meetings with 3 NIOs, 4 IOs, and 4 Indigenous governing bodies
- Observed 10 bilateral meetings with NIOs/IOs hosted by Justice Canada concerning the Modernization of the *Privacy Act*



# What We Are Currently Working On

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- Issued implementation guidance to help address challenges identified around inter-institutional consultations.
- Developing consistent, government-wide training tools to support the access to information and privacy communities.
- Spearheading declassification efforts with Public Safety Canada and other institutions to promote transparency and improve access to national security-related information

## UPDATES TO THE AORS

- Over the summer, launched a new version of the [ATIP Online Request Service platform](#).
- Budget 2021 committed \$12.8M to support improvements Enhancements:
  - Creation of secure user accounts where basic information can be saved for future use
  - Tracking of requests in real time.
  - The receipt of requested information via the platform.

## UN Declaration Act

- Working to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UN Declaration Act) under the leadership of Justice Canada.
- Following interim process with stages of assessment of the UN Declaration Act in relation to Indigenous issues and federal legislative or regulatory initiatives,
- Focus on consulting and cooperation.

# What is Upcoming

## Indigenous What We Heard Report



- Anticipated publication mid-December 2022.
- Highlights input from engagement processes and issues examinations.
- Issues raised to date include the Act's definition of Aboriginal government, Indigenous peoples' right of access, and data sovereignty.

## The Final Report



- President to submit to Parliament in 2022.
- Overview of the current digital context of the ATIA regime.
- Provides potential initiatives to improve service to Canadians, enhance trust and transparency, and advance reconciliation.

## Findings



- Many issues boil down to the time for requests to be completed and amount of information disclosed.
- Improvements could focus on ATI business flow or tackle systemic issues.
- Opportunity to leverage work in open government.

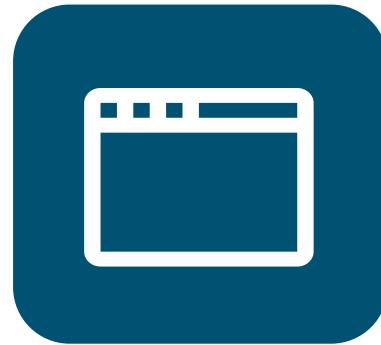
# Contact Us

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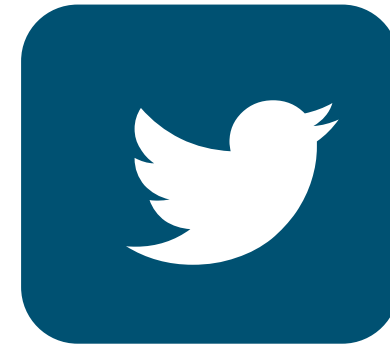
We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work on improving access to information for Indigenous peoples together.



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