

# EVALIndigenous

## Draft 1 – Concept Paper



EVALINDIGENOUS is a multi-stakeholder partnership which, through the recognition of the different world views and valuing the strengths of Indigenous evaluation practices will advance the contribution of Indigenous evaluation to global evaluation practice.

EVALINDIGENOUS will promote the use of different evaluation approaches and methods to ensure evaluations are culturally sensitive, inclusive, and are tools in the improvement of community well-being including the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of individuals, families and communities.

EVALINDIGENOUS will attempt to inform individuals engaged in evaluation with Indigenous communities through a) documenting the evaluation and research protocols developed by Indigenous communities and organizations; b) facilitating learning and sharing of experiences c) promoting innovation in approaches and methods used in Indigenous evaluation and, d) disseminating information regarding 'lessons learned'.

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### WHY EVALINDIGENOUS

The importance of evaluation use in program improvement and policy development cannot be understated. Neither can the differences between an Indigenous evaluation paradigm and the dominant evaluation paradigm. For too long governments and funders have evaluated programs implemented in Indigenous communities using transient evaluators, who are unfamiliar with the cultural realities, protocols and community contexts.

In order to strengthen and make evaluation more authentic in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities it is time to build on work that has been done to bring both world views together. As noted by Battiste, it is a coming together of Indigenous and western sciences or as Hatcher, Bartlett, Marshall and Marshall state it is 'Two-Eyed Seeing' "that is, to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of the western ways of knowing, and to use both of these eyes together." Using this lens will help to ensure that the equity focused and gender responsive approach of EvalPartners is truly equitable.

The development of partnerships and the documentation where these approaches have been used will be shared with other organizations and evaluators in order to strengthen national capacity for evaluation. The UN General Assembly resolution on national evaluation capacity development supports the importance of strengthening national capacity for evaluation. It is essential that strengthening national evaluation capacity includes valuing the contributions of Indigenous world views and practices as well as recognizing the sovereignty of Indigenous nations.

Furthermore, UN Article 18 regarding the Rights of Indigenous peoples states, that “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.” Therefore, there is also a need that strengthened national evaluation capacity recognizes the differing cultural and contextual realities within Indigenous communities and among Indigenous peoples. As such, the documentation and sharing of cultural protocols will become an important contribution of EVALINDIGENOUS.

EVALINDIGENOUS as conceptualized will include communicating and networking with Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), UN agencies, other international organizations, Indigenous governments, other governments, academia, think tanks and private foundations.

### **The Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020**

EVALINDIGENOUS is aligned with the emerging Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 which is as follows:

1. Strengthen the enabling environment for evaluation
2. Strengthen institutional capacities of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) and Civil society
3. Strengthen individual evaluator capacity development
4. Inter-linkages between enabling environment, institutional and individual capacities

