

ontario association for
impact assessment
annual conference

OAIA 2015

OCT 21 + 22 TORONTO

THIS YEAR'S THEME

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: A CRITICAL TOOL FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF TORONTO
FACULTY CLUB

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

AS OF SEPTEMBER 17 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CAN BE A CRITICAL TOOL IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE. IT CAN EXAMINE HOW PROJECT IMPACTS CAN AFFECT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN AFFECT PROJECTS AND HOW PROJECTS CAN ADAPT AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT CAN SUGGEST HOW PROJECTS CAN BE MODIFIED TO BETTER CONTRIBUTE TO EITHER MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE OR ENABLING SOCIETY TO ADAPT TO IT. THE OAIA 2015 CONFERENCE WILL EXPLORE HOW ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH A NUMBER OF THEMES.

THIS CONFERENCE
IS BROUGHT TO YOU
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



OAIA 2015

DAY 1 | OCTOBER 21 TORONTO

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration	
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome, Conference Logistics and Introductions Introduction to the Conference Theme	• Ariane Heisey , <i>President, OAIA</i>
9:15 – 10:00 am	Session 1 – Opening Session: Environmental Assessment and the Low Carbon Economy Our conference will be opened by Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change who will give his thoughts on the role that environmental assessment can play in achieving a low carbon economy.	<i>Speaker</i> • The Honourable Glen Murray , Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
10:00 – 11:00 am	Session 2 - Panel Presentation – Climate Change in EA: Current Practice in Canada and Ontario The first panel discussion will take a more in-depth look at both the federal and provincial governments' current legislative basis and practice for assessing the effects of the environment on a project in the context of climate change. The presentations will use case studies to explore methodology for assessing and addressing effects of the environment on projects, the determination of significance and identification of mitigation measures to address climate change.	<i>Speakers</i> • Anjala Puvananathan , Director, Ontario Region, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency • TBD
11:00 – 11:20 am	Refreshments and Networking	
11:20 – 12:30 pm	Session 3 – Panel Discussion - The Legal Perspective on Climate Change and EA This session will explore how laws, regulations and guidance have been or could be used as tools to improve the integration of climate change considerations in EA. The session will offer an overview of a range of EA processes that have been designed to integrate climate change considerations, the challenges that come with that and how challenges need to be taken into account by legislators. Presenting key legislation and policy from different jurisdictions will provide guidance to policy-makers in making decisions on how to successfully integrate climate change considerations in the EA process. It will also look at how CEAA 2012 can be tweaked through regulation to ensure that high GHG emission projects are assessed under an EA regime. Best practices from many jurisdictions used develop a guideline for practitioners on integrating climate change into Ontario's EA process will also be discussed.	<i>Speakers</i> • Emilie Godbout-Beaulieu and Meinhard Doelle , Dalhousie University • Stephen Hazell , Director of Conservation and General Counsel, Nature Canada • Simran Chatta , Shelley Hazen and Kirstin Geissler , Toronto Region Conservation Authority

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TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch with Keynote Speaker The Big Picture <i>Speaker:</i> Ellen Schwartzel, Acting Environmental Commissioner of Ontario	
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Session 4 – Panel Discussion – Integration of Climate Change in EA: The Municipal Context This panel will explore the importance of municipal governments in advancing the climate change adaptation discourse; planning for responses; and improving the resilience of infrastructure. The panel will provide an overview of local government climate change adaptation planning in Canada, and examine policy deficits, knowledge gaps, and leadership challenges confronting those undertaking adaptation planning. Comparative and descriptive data will be summarized from the National Municipal Adaptation Project survey. A provincial EA framework for climate change adaptation in the solid waste management sector will then be presented that will lead to a province that is more prepared for climate change impacts and better able to adapt changing climate conditions.	<i>Speakers</i> • Kevin Hanna , University of British Columbia • Blair Shoniker and Erika Brown , GHD • TBD
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Refreshments and Networking	
3:45 – 5:00 pm	Session 5 – The Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project (Case Study) This case study will examine a significant infrastructure initiative and EA in an area of Toronto's waterfront. The "Don Mouth Naturalization and Port lands Flood Protection Project" is set to transform the existing mouth of the Don River into a healthier, more naturalized river outlet to the Toronto inner harbour and Lake Ontario while at the same time removing the risk of flooding to over 290 hectares including a large segment of downtown Toronto. The EA for the project included an adaptive management framework that addressed climate change. Reference to this will provide the basis for recommendations as to how climate change can be integrated into other federal and provincial EAs.	<i>Speakers</i> • Ken Dion , Senior Manger, Toronto Region Conservation Authority • Mark van der Woerd , Senior Environmental Planner AECOM
5:00	Day 1: Announcements and Introduction to Day 2	• Ariane Heisey , <i>President</i> , OAIA
5:00 - onwards	Network at Neighboring Pub	

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DAY 2 | OCTOBER 22 TORONTO

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8:00 – 9:00 am	OAIA Annual General Meeting with Breakfast - all welcome to participate Registration	
9:00 – 10:30 am	<p>Session 6 - Panel Presentation – Integration of Climate Change in EA</p> <p>This session will examine how the resource development sector is responding to climate change. Panellists will discuss how a changing climate presents physical risks to the mining sector because mines are often located in areas with extreme weather, rely on infrastructure with long lifetimes, create by-products that must be managed in perpetuity, rely on climate-sensitive water and energy resources and involve global supply chains. The International Council on Mining and Metals has identified a growing awareness that a changing climate and its impacts can affect the mining industry. The panel will illustrate how mines in Ontario and select international sites are taking action to better understand risks and opportunities and actions to adapt. The panel will also present a synthesis of best practices for considering climate change and adaptation, using key findings from a critical analysis of recent EAs of mines. Particular attention will be given to the need for and use of climate change projections, addressing the uncertainties in projections and the evaluation of options for adapting to climate change.</p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Capstick and Cheyenne Martin, Golder and Associates • Simon Eng and Al Douglas, Risk Sciences International • TBD
10:30 – 10:50 am	Refreshments and Networking	
10:50 – 12:15 pm	<p>Session 7 – Panel Presentation – Innovative Approaches to Addressing Climate Change in EA</p> <p>This session will examine how innovative approaches are enabling integration of climate change into project specific and regional strategic Environmental Assessment (EA) that must be applied holistically throughout project planning and design. A case study of the Lakeview Waterfront Connection EA will demonstrate how an objectives-based evaluation framework and adaptive management can be used to address the challenges and uncertainties related to how climate change may affect the project.</p> <p>The long-term nature of landfill operations and post-closure period (up to over a century) make climate change considerations extremely relevant; a second case study will show how climate change adaptation factors, such as frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, were incorporated into a local landfill design.</p> <p>A GHG emission inventory will then be explored as a first step in accounting for, monitoring and eventually reducing GHG emissions, particularly in the transportation sector. A GHG inventory can be a way to evaluate alternatives in EAs and can identify a need for mitigation. The presentation will share lessons learned including how the EAs informed planning during route selection and design alternatives for routes of provincial highways.</p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anneliese Grieve, Arcadis Canada • Ken Dion, Toronto Region Conservation Authority • Don MacKinnon, Dillon Consulting • Clark Gunter, MMM

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TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
12:15 – 1:45 pm	Networking Lunch	
1:45 – 3:00 pm	<p>Session 8 – Panel Discussion - Regional Strategic EA and Climate Change</p> <p>Regional Strategic EA (R-SEA) is a participatory decision-making support process for planning that considers environmental sustainability considerations at scales that are often beyond the narrow scope of project-based environmental impact assessment. A changing climate also presents important challenges for project-based environmental impact assessment. In international practice, R-SEA is conceived as offering similar advantages in considering climate change. The panel will highlight case studies and draw on lessons learned from international, Canadian and Ontario practice including the perspective of Indigenous Peoples. Particular attention will be paid to how R-SEA can address climate change and provide an opportunity to proactively quantify, monitor, and manage climate change within the context of cumulative effects.</p>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Chetkiewicz, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada • Peter Croal, International Environment and Development Advisor • David Pearson, Laurentian University • Bram Noble, University of Saskatchewan
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Coffee Break	
3:15 – 4:15 pm	<p>Session 9 – Community Visioning Session</p> <p>Using a visioning process, participants will develop a shared vision of recommendations related to the use of EA as a tool to tackle climate change. The vision provides a picture of the long-range results of the planning process and what will be accomplished when the strategies developed are implemented. A vision is a compelling and inspiring image of a desired and possible future that a community seeks to achieve; in this case a future where EA has been widely embraced as a tool to tackle climate change. Participants will be asked to discuss a series of questions that will lead to the creation of concrete short and long-term recommendations.</p>	<p><i>Session Facilitator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Bright, OAIA Board Member
4:25 pm	Conference Wrap-Up	
		• New OAIA Chair