

OAI


**Ontario Association for
Impact Assessment**



COMMON GOAL
Uncommon Pathways

**2021
CONFERENCE**

**ONLINE PRESENTATIONS:
OCTOBER 20TH TO 21ST**



Our conference is usually held in Toronto (Tkaronto), a gathering place for many nations including the **Anishinabeg**, the **Haudenosaunee** and the **Wendat** peoples. We acknowledge we are meeting in the area covered by Treaty 13, also known as the Toronto Purchase, and we pay our respects to the **Mississauguas of the Credit First Nation**.

2021 Conference Overview

The goal of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act is the "betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment". This is a goal that many Ontarians share. As practitioners, we have learned a great deal in the last 46 years, about practice and outcomes in trying to achieve this goal through impact assessment programs in Ontario as well as from other jurisdictions across Canada and best practices emerging internationally.

Over the last four decades, impact assessment in Ontario, and indeed across Canada, has evolved. There is new legislation federally as well as in many parts of Canada. Over the past 46 years, some of the pathways to delivering on betterment have involved new concepts such as sustainability and gender-based analysis. Other pathways have focused on developing and applying new assessment frameworks, evaluation systems, and decision-support tools. Still others have addressed streamlining the process and improving engagement, emphasizing inclusivity and collaboration.

This year's conference theme reflects on the experiences of delivering the common goal of betterment by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management of the environment through impact assessment in Ontario. At the same time, we will consider the future of impact assessment, highlighting innovative pathways together with examples of what is working well. These can include pathways that enable Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the implementation of UNDRIP for impacts affecting Indigenous Peoples as well as cooperation and collaboration; meaningful engagement with stakeholders; and deeper understanding of impacts, risks and opportunities on social, cultural, and health values. In addition, we are interested in pathways that highlight the role and value of science as well as other ways of knowing, including Indigenous Knowledge; evolving expectations for corporate social responsibility; and equity and efficiency in decision-making based on impact assessment.



This conference has a wide appeal to those working in different disciplines and sectors and is broad enough to engage with a range of practitioners, Indigenous Peoples, academics, and others on the following:

COMMON GOAL, UNCOMMON PATHWAYS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Indigenous Peoples: Evolution of consultation practices toward Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and implementing UNDRIP
- Stakeholder Engagement: The spectrum of engagement practices and the role of social media
- Regulatory effectiveness: Unnecessary red tape to effective, informed decision-making
- From data to knowledge: Using science, best practices, Indigenous and local Knowledge to address uncertainty and inform decision-making
- One project, one assessment: Evolution of multijurisdictional processes and harmonization successes
- Risk management: Tempered decision-making with engagement supporting a faster yes or faster no and the role of public hearings and appeals processes

COMMON GOAL, UNCOMMON PATHWAYS FOR PROJECTS

- Delivering on betterment: Biophysical, cultural, technical, social and health impact assessments and Indigenous-led impact assessment
- The evolution of corporate social responsibility
- The emergence of equality, diversity, and inclusion analyses in impact assessment
- Lessons learned from remote, large-scale developments
- Cumulative effects assessment: Lessons learned at the project, regional and strategic level
- Looking back to consider the future: Indigenous perspectives on project-level impact assessment and emerging Indigenous-led IA
- Compliance and IA follow-up and monitoring: What is working well?

COMMON GOAL, UNCOMMON PATHWAYS AND THE FUTURE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- The climate test, guidance, and new tools for addressing climate change in impact assessment
- Meeting Ontario and Canada's commitments on biodiversity conservation
- Indigenous-led impact assessment
- Addressing food sovereignty through impact assessment
- Addressing sustainability
- The importance of advisors and experts
- Visions for IA in the next fifty years

Conference Planning Committee

Sue Bilek – OAIA Administrator

Charles Birchall– Willms and Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

Cheryl Chetkiewicz – WCS Canada (2021 OAIA Conference Chair)

Nick Crockford – Morrison Hershfield Limited

Rebecca D’Onofrio – Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Anneliese Grieve – Anneliese Grieve Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions

Sandy Nairn – OAIA Board Member

Anjala Puvananathan – Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Luis Orantes – Parsons Corporation

Blair Shoniker – GHD

Beth Williston – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority



Thank You to the Presenters and Facilitators of the 2021 OAIA Conference

Every year, OAIA makes a donation in lieu of participant gifts to an organization that is focused on environmental stewardship, human health, well-being and sustainability. We also consider how the organization aligns with our values of respect, diversity and inclusion, collaboration, integrity, and accountability and transparency.

This year we recognize the vision and work by EcoSpark, particularly their focus on citizen science, youth mentorship, and work with schools. A \$500 donation was made to EcoSpark on behalf of OAIA. We encourage you to learn more about their important work.

Previous recipients of the OAIA speakers' gift donation were related to past OAIA conference themes and include [CAPE](#), [Tree Canada](#), [WaterFirst](#), and [Environment North](#).



The Power of Commitment

↳ Proud sponsors of OAIA 2021 Conference

ghd.com

A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR A CHANGING WORLD.

From market volatility and regulatory uncertainty to heightened competition and supply chain shifts, the issues you face as an international business aren't bound by conventional borders. That's why Gowling WLG is home to more than 1,500 legal professionals in 19 cities around the world. Armed with the legal insight and foresight you need to navigate the complexities of global business, our team will help you rise to tomorrow's challenges today.

Find out more at gowlingwlg.com

 **GOWLING WLG**
In tune with your world™

Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP is a member of Gowling WLG, an international law firm which consists of independent and autonomous entities providing services around the world. Our structure is explained in more detail at gowlingwlg.com/legal

Day 1 – October 20, 2021

Session 1, 9:00am to 10:45am

Where Have We Come From

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
JOIN THE CONFERENCE'S VIRTUAL LOBBY STARTING AT 8:45 TO MINGLE WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS				
1a	9:00 am to 9:15 am (15 minutes)	Opening Remarks		Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Chetkiewicz, OAIAPresident, 2021 OAIAP Conference Chair, and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
1b	9:15 am to 10:45 am (90 minutes)	Experienced Perspectives	The approaching 50 th Anniversary of Ontario's <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> (EA Act), provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice with this panel that highlights the experienced perspectives of the impact assessment (IA) community. The panelists will reflect on the original promise of the EA Act and its evolution in Ontario to where the practice is today. This is also an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of these distinguished panelists.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles (Chuck) J. Birchall, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Audrey Armour, York University, and Armour Environmental Inc. Don Gorber, Independent Environmental Consultants David Estrin, LSO Environmental Law Specialist, and CELA
BREAK – 10:45 am to 11:00 am Sponsored by Hardy Stevenson and Associates				



Get Our Environmental Law Specialists on Your Team!

Proud to be a Gold Sponsor of the OAIAP Conference



Charles J. Birchall
613 761 2424
cbirchall@willmsshier.com



Julie Abouchar
416 862 4836
jabouchar@willmsshier.com



Marc McAree
416 862 4820
mmcaree@willmsshier.com

www.willmsshier.com

Day 1 – October 20, 2021

Session 2, 11:00am to 12:00pm

Where We Are - Government Perspectives

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
2a	11:00 am to 11:30 am (30 minutes)	The <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>, the modern federal assessment process	On August 28, 2019, the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> (the IAA) came into force and repealed the former <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> . The IAA provides for a modernized federal impact assessment process for projects that will ensure timely and effective impact assessments and decisions. This session will provide an overview of the federal impact assessment process described in the IAA and information on the implementation of the impact assessment process two years in.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerrie Goodwin, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
2b	11:30 am to 12:00 noon (30 minutes)	Overview from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be providing an update on their efforts to modernize Ontario's almost 50-year old environmental assessment program. The presentation will cover changes that have been implemented, current consultation opportunities and will look ahead to future initiatives.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ross Lashbrook, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

LUNCH – 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm



Environmental Solutions

Creating Value, Minimizing Risk

Working to maximize your environmental opportunities while minimizing impacts to the natural, socio-economic, and cultural environments. We serve a broad range of clients in the transportation, transit, power, waste, resource management and government sectors.

- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Planning
- Environmental Mgmt. Systems
- Permitting & Approvals
- Natural Sciences
- Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation
- Project Sustainability
- Contamination & Groundwater Assessment
- Waste Management



People • Culture • Capabilities

Day 1 – October 20, 2021

Session 3, 1:00pm to 1:50pm

Where We Are - Proponent Perspectives

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
3	1:00 pm to 1:50 pm (50 minutes)	Collectively setting the research agenda strengthens impact assessment practice	The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is implementing Adaptive Phased Management, Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The NWMO is committed to applying science in impact assessment (IA) and to recognize the vital need to accommodate plural values in study design. We have embarked on an ambitious research agenda bringing together academics, conservation practitioners, Indigenous and local knowledge holders, and NWMO scientists working collaboratively to not only figure out what to study, but how to do the studies. Proposed mitigation will be based on an understanding of ecosystem function so we can more credibly determine whether measures are likely to be successful. This allows the IA to focus on what is important and strengthens the case for follow-up to concentrate on predicted effects that are potentially significant and uncertain.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blair Shoniker, GHD Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa Mayhew, Nuclear Waste Management Organization Toby James Thorne, Toronto Zoo Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia Evan Laye, Graduate Student, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia

BREAK — 1:50 pm to 2:00 pm | Sponsored by the University of British Columbia's Centre for Environmental Research



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) works with its partners to protect the health and integrity of local ecosystems and develop future-ready communities through application of science, community engagement, and advancing sustainable practices.

We are proud sponsors of OAIA 2021

trca.ca



Day 1 – October 20, 2021

Session 4, 2:00pm to 3:20pm

Where We Are - Northern Perspectives

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
4	2:00 pm to 3:20 pm (80 minutes)	Mining injustice: Exploration and decision making in Ring of Fire pushes on despite lack of inclusion of community voices	Despite Ontario's efforts to develop the Ring of Fire (ROF) mineral deposits located in Ontario's Far North, and a record-setting start for the global mining sector in 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic stalled the demand for raw materials. Subsequently, there was a shift in industry and investor priorities, and tweaking of government policy on mining. The academic, legal, and Indigenous community perspectives on this panel questions Ontario's response to mining activities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; including new policies that inextricably favor the interests of extractive industries over affected, at-risk communities. In March 2020, Ontario's Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines published the Extension of Time Policy and the Exclusion of Time Policy. These policies are directly at odds with Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Affairs that had advised projects potentially affecting treaty rights to be deferred. Ontario must re-evaluate its priorities and provide capacity funding, flexibility, and decision-making authority to First Nations communities engaging in proposed development.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Chetkiewicz, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brady Reid, PhD candidate, University of Guelph Kerrie Blaise, Canadian Environmental Law Association Mike Koostachin, Fort Albany First Nation

BREAK – 3:20 pm to 3:30 pm | Sponsored by Hardy Stevenson and Associates



PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

At the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, we're responsible for Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Canada's plan involves safely containing and isolating used nuclear fuel in an area with suitable geology and informed, willing hosts. The plan is adaptive to advances in technical learnings and international best practices.

Every day, we are conscious of our duty to be accountable to Canadians – to work and learn together, and to protect our safety, our environment and this beautiful land.


Dig deeper, learn more | nwmo.ca

@NWMOCanada







NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Day 1 – October 20, 2021

Session 5, 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Critique of Federal Impact Assessment

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
5a	3:30 pm to 4:50 pm (80 minutes)	New, fair IA processes: how Canada's Impact Assessment Act stacks up	Enacted in August 2019, the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> (the IAA) was the federal government's attempt to deliver on its commitment to restore public trust in environmental impact assessment, get resources to market, and introduce "new, fair processes." Two years later, how has the IAA delivered on those promises? This session will explore key issues relevant to the conduct of impact assessment, and whether and how the IAA better addresses them. Panelists will present their findings as described in chapters of the forthcoming book, <i>The Next Generation of Impact Assessment: A Critical Review of the Canadian Impact Assessment Act</i> . The issues explored will include multijurisdictional assessment, sustainability, monitoring and follow-up, climate, and gender-based analysis-plus. Presentations will describe the problem that the IAA is intended to address and how the IAA is designed to address it, as well as outstanding issues and questions for implementation. The session will follow a traditional format of presentations-plus-clarification-questions, followed by a question-and-answer period to encourage audience participation.	<p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna Johnston, West Coast Environmental Law John Sinclair, University of Manitoba Meinhard Doelle, Dalhousie University, Marine and Environmental Law Institute Patricia Fitzpatrick, University of Winnipeg Robert B. Gibson, University of Waterloo Martin Olszynski, University of Calgary
5b	4:50 pm to 5:00 pm (10 minutes)	Closing Remarks		<p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beth Williston, 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority



Day 2 – October 21, 2021

Session 6, 9:00am to 10:45am

Perspectives on Engagement in IA, Part 1

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
6a	9:00 am to 9:15 am (15 minutes)	Opening Remarks		Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Chetkiewicz, OAIA President, 2021 OAIA Conference Chair, and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
6b,c,d	9:15 am to 10:45 am (90 minutes)	The quality of life for the people who live in the north must first be improved	The ecological systems such as peatlands, permafrost, boreal forests, and the fish and wildlife in northern Ontario are poorly understood by science and have not been monitored properly. This presentation will focus on the perspectives of an Indigenous community leader on what is happening to the freshwater, fish, peatlands, permafrost and wildlife and the impacts to Weenusk and Peawanuck community members, who would be living down river from the Ring of Fire.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Chetkiewicz, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samuel Hunter, Weenusk First Nation Rhys McMaster, 2021 OAIA STUDENT BURSARY RECIPIENT, University of Saskatchewan Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang First Nation Scott and Cathy Grant, C&S Grant Environmental Consulting Inc.
		Socio-technical baseline capacities: energy transition opportunities	This presentation will focus on research to understand the socio-technical baseline capacity for energy transition of Gwich'in communities in Northwest Territories. The research objectives are to develop a conceptual rapid assessment framework for socio-technical baseline profiles, pilot test the framework with four partner communities, and identify key opportunities, key challenges, and regional trends. 94 interviews were conducted. Key informants were interviewed virtually due to COVID-19 while youth researchers in each of the respective communities conducted the community member interviews. Outcomes include a socio-technical baseline profile of each of the partner communities and the Gwich'in region allowing for the identification of key opportunities, key challenges, and regional trends, which will allow for the development of community-to-community capacity building and long-term capacity building within the region.	
		Aamjiwnaang First Nation developing its own path to Reconciliation and Environmental Justice	Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Sarnia) is a vibrant and proactive First Nation's Community surrounded by multiple petroleum refineries and chemical plants emitting hundreds of pollutants. Aamjiwnaang air quality monitoring was compared to Canadian cities with no industry and other United States' (US) communities with a similar or higher number of industries. The data shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulphur dioxide levels ~6 to 10 times higher. Benzene levels ~10 to 30 times higher. 1,3 Butadiene levels ~1.5 to 27 times higher. Cumulative impacts are not well understood nor regulated. The United Nations Special Rapporteur Report visit to Canada 2020 found Aamjiwnaang's situation "profoundly unsettling". Now Aamjiwnaang is defining its own path to address ineffective government policies/regulations as the Crown has failed to protect Aamjiwnaang from environmental impacts. Overlapping provincial and federal jurisdictions contribute to the lack of clarity on the proper forum for seeking environmental justice. In response to egregiously high monitored values, Aamjiwnaang took initiative to issue a Notice of Violation to a local industry to abate air emissions. Aamjiwnaang is considering a pilot program to assert their right to develop and enforce their own environmental rules. The US has had a similar environmental Tribal program since 1984.	
BREAK – 10:45 am to 11:00 am Sponsored by Hardy Stephenson and Associates				

Day 2 – October 21, 2021

Session 7, 11:00am to 12:30pm

Perspectives on Engagement in IA, Part 2

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
7a,b,c	11:00 am to 12:30 pm (90 minutes)	Operationalizing Indigenous Governing Authority in Impact Assessments of Major Projects	A team of researchers, Indigenous Governing Authorities (IGAs) and Indigenous jurisdictions are collaborating on approaches to assessing major projects under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> (the IAA). The proposed research builds on the Synthesis Report produced in 2020 through the <i>Knowledge Synthesis Grant Program: Informing Best Practices in Environmental and Impact Assessments</i> (funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada). The project involves the study of impact assessment work of IGAs throughout Canada, including in modern Treaty areas and beyond, that can provide workable models for joint decision-making that respect the governing authority of Indigenous jurisdictions and thus increase the legitimacy of impact assessments conducted under the IAA.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Crockford, Morrison Hershfield Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dayna Nadine Scott, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University Laura Tanguay, York University Jasmine Williams, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto Simon Popescu, Student, University of Waterloo Hayley Austin, Student, University of Waterloo
		Waste wood products as a pathway towards more economically-viable, conservation-oriented and First Nations inclusive mine tailings reclamation.	The introduction of select low-cost biochars at both operational mines and legacy sites could alter the reclamation scenario dramatically for both historic and contemporary mining sites. Biochar has been promoted as a means to remediate contaminated soils by increasing substrate pH, enhancing water and nutrient retention, and reducing bioavailability of toxic metals. Bottom ash from bioenergy facilities and other waste wood products can contain high levels of charcoal residue, and thus qualify as a type of biochar; the availability of this material at low costs in Canada makes it of particular interest in the context of tailings remediation. The effect of biochar on plant metal uptake is of predominant interest to long-term public health in mining regions, most specifically Indigenous Peoples' health. Optimizing the regrowth of native species while limiting heavy metal absorption by vegetation is critical in order to ensure safe and sustainable hunting and harvesting in mine-proximate regions of Ontario.	
		Engaging Student Expertise for IA: UW's Environmental Assessment Review Society	Members of the public hold essential expertise and knowledge that can be useful for guiding environmental assessments and their decisions. However, the public may experience barriers to participation. University students are an example of population groups with knowledge but who lack resources to contribute effectively, resulting in disengagement. A case study from the University of Waterloo's Environmental Assessment Review Society, a student-run organization, will showcase how members of the public, specifically youth, can contribute to assessments in Canada. The club's participatory model can be a framework for strengthening community and youth engagement in assessments of major projects in Canada. This framework emphasizes the use of social media tools for distributing information to and engaging with youth, which have been absent from conventional engagement approaches.	
LUNCH – 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm				



Colucent Environmental

Day 2 – October 21, 2021

Session 8, 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Proponent Perspective: Future of Complex Class EAs in Ontario

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
8	2:00 pm to 3:00 pm (60 minutes)	Complex Class EAs –Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Class EA Case Study	Increasingly municipalities are addressing complex problems such as flood protection, which require the planning of complex solutions, requiring changes to multiple pieces of infrastructure, within highly developed urban spaces. The Downtown Brampton Flood Protection (DBFP) Project is an example of this type of project. This session will present the DBFP as a case study highlighting: the approach to undertaking this Class EA, the focus on Alternative solutions rather than Alternative design concepts and the importance of considering and addressing social impacts and benefits.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Anneliese Grieve, Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meg St. John, Toronto and Region Conservation AuthorityAnneliese Grieve, Strategic Environmental Planning SolutionsMichael Heralall, City of Brampton

BREAK –3:00 pm to 3:15 pm | Sponsored by the University of British Columbia's Centre for Environmental Research



Day 2 – October 21, 2021

Session 9, 3:15pm to 5:00pm

The Future: Where Are We Heading?

Item #	Time	Title	Abstract	Participants
9a	3:15 pm to 4:45 pm (90 minutes)	Perspectives on the Future	The last panel of the conference will draw on the observations of the earlier panels and discuss recent trends and issues in the development of IA. The panel will address how key features of IA can and should evolve in Ontario and elsewhere so that IA enjoys broad support as a key mechanism for good planning and fostering sustainable development.	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles (Chuck) J. Birchall, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Meinhard Doelle, Dalhousie University, Marine and Environmental Law Institute Rhys McMaster, 2021 OAlA STUDENT BURSARY RECIPIENT, University of Saskatchewan
9b	4:45 pm to 5:00 pm (15 minutes)	Closing Remarks		Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles (Chuck) J. Birchall, 2021 OAlA Conference Planning Committee, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

PORT

Meet me for a paddle in the
Don River.

Port Lands
2024

IT'S A
GAME-CHANGER

LANDS

Canada Ontario TORONTO WATERFRONT Toronto PortLandsTO.ca

Participant Biographies

Audrey Armour

Dr. Audrey Armour's influence on the environmental assessment (EA) process in Ontario is significant. Dr. Armour is responsible for educating and inspiring many senior practitioners from her time as professor at York University. Dr. Armour gained international recognition for her innovative work and research on public consultation, facility siting conflicts, social impact assessment and integrated environmental planning. By giving evidence during the Halton landfill EA hearing in the late 1980's, Dr. Armour set the stage for Social Impact Assessment in Ontario. Her ground-breaking research on public involvement in facility siting led to her appointment in 1986 to the Federal task force to design a process for siting a low-level waste disposal facility and she was the principal author of what became known as the "Cooperative Siting Process". This process incorporated the principles of voluntary community participation, consensus-building, informed consent, equity, joint planning and shared decision-making. Dr. Armour was the President of IAIA 1987-88.

Hayley Austin

Hayley Austin (She/Her) is a student in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, minoring in Anthropology and pursuing a diploma in Environmental Assessment at the University of Waterloo. She is the co-founder and Communications Director of Waterloo's Environmental Assessment Review Society. While studying abroad, Hayley wrote for the newspaper, communicating with the public different scientific projects and discoveries. She is currently working with Environment and Climate Change Canada to produce the Lakewide Action and Management Plan for Lake Huron. Her research interests are in water quality as impacted by anthropogenic means. Her focus is on fish and macroinvertebrate communities.

Sue Bilek

Sue Bilek, has over 30 years of diverse professional experience, and is the Administrative Coordinator for Environmental Services, Eastern Canada, and is a Principal at Morrison Hershfield (MH). She is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and also the administrator at with OAIA. Sue joined MH in 1999 where she is an integral part of the Environmental Business Unit. Prior to joining MH, Sue worked in the graphics industry for 10 years, which enables her to use various digital imaging skills and software to assist the Environmental group, including on design and formatting of reports, display boards for public information centre presentations, and the editing and formatting of digital images.

Participant Biographies

Charles J. Birchall

Charles (Chuck) J. Birchall, LL.B., LL.M., member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee, is a partner at Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP. Chuck is certified as an Environmental Law Specialist by the Law Society of Upper Canada. Chuck has about 30 years' experience devoted exclusively to environmental law and the intersection of environmental law with Aboriginal law, consultation and economic development. Chuck has particular expertise with environmental assessment and compliance, contaminated lands and energy law. Chuck received his LL.B. from Queen's University and his LL.M. in Common Law from the University of Ottawa. Chuck also has a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science from the University of Toronto. Chuck is called to the Bar in Ontario, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories decision-making.

Kerrie Blaise

Kerrie Blaise is the Northern Services Legal Counsel with the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) shares her professional expertise that spans knowledge of the unique climate and environmental features of this subarctic region. Kerrie has legal expertise on environmental assessment and environmental protection.

Cheryl Chetkiewicz

Cheryl Chetkiewicz, PhD, President of OAIA and Chair of the 2021 OAIA Conference is a Conservation Scientist with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Canada. Her research focuses on regional-scale issues affecting fish and wildlife as well as First Nations including field and applied research, monitoring, assessing the cumulative impacts of land use and climate change on wildlife, and promoting the need for regional environmental and strategic assessments, especially in the Ring of Fire in the Far North of Ontario.

Mark Cliffe-Phillips

Mark Cliffe-Phillips is the Executive Director at Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, which is an independent co-management tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley of the NWT. Prior to joining the Review Board, he was the Executive Director of the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board, which was responsible for the licensing and permitting of Canada's largest diamond mines. Mark has been working in the resource co-management sector in the Northwest Territories since 2003, when he first joined the staff of the Sahtu Land and Water Board. He is currently a Board member of the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects and frequently participates in various environmental assessment improvement initiatives across the North and the rest of Canada.

Participant Biographies

Nick Crockford

Nick Crockford, BES, MES, member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee, is an Environmental Planner at Morrison Hershfield. He has worked on numerous projects across Canada in infrastructure, automotive, waste management and sustainability in both the public and private sectors. Since joining Morrison Hershfield, Nick has assisted in coordinating provincial environmental assessment process requirements; formulating and implementing consultation plans; coordinating and reviewing environmental and technical specialist work; coordinating socio-economic and land use data collection; and communicating with Indigenous groups, municipal and provincial government representatives, and the public.

Meinhard Doelle

Dr. Meinhard Doelle served as policy advisor to the federal government during the development of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (1992), and as a member of the federal Environment Minister's Regulatory Advisory Committee. He was a non-governmental member of the Canadian delegation to the UN climate negotiations from 2000-2006. He co-chaired the Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment in Nova Scotia in 2007, served on the Lower Churchill Joint Federal-Provincial Review Panel from 2009 – 2011, and co-chaired a Nova Scotia panel on aquaculture from 2013 - 2014. He currently serves on the Technical Advisory Committee on the federal Impact Assessment Act.

Rebecca D'Onofrio

Rebecca D'Onofrio, M.Sc., is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee. Rebecca has worked in impact assessment for most of her career, and currently works for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. Prior to this, Rebecca worked as an aquatic scientist for an international environmental consulting firm, and as an environmental coordinator and environmental permitting specialist for mining companies in Northern Ontario and British Columbia. Rebecca holds a Master's degree of Biology from the University of Ottawa. Rebecca's research focused on the effects of thawing permafrost on biota from small lakes in the Mackenzie Delta uplands, Northwest Territories.



Participant Biographies

David Estrin

David Estrin is recognized as Canada's senior environmental law practitioner. His career has uniquely combined litigation, teaching, research and writing. He is Canada's first private environmental law practitioner and has long been certified as a specialist in environmental law by the Law Society of Ontario. He founded the environmental Law group at Gowling WLG and is now practicing on a pro bono basis with CELA. For five decades he has advised government agencies, corporations and financial institutions, municipalities, First Nations and Inuit communities, environmental organizations and citizens groups, as well as law firms in Canada and the U.S., in all facets of environmental law, including legislation and policies concerning environmental assessment (EA). Since 1973, the year in which environmental assessment was first introduced to the Canadian environmental regulatory scheme, David has been actively involved with EA in many varied ways.

Patricia Fitzpatrick

Dr. Patricia (Trish) Fitzpatrick (she/her) is Professor in the Department of Geography, and an Instructor in the Master's of Development Practice – Indigenous Focus - at the University of Winnipeg. The University is in Treaty 1, the territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Peoples. Over the past twenty years, she has been involved in twelve Canadian EAs involving mining, and energy developments.

Robert B. Gibson

Robert B. Gibson is a professor in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo. He has worked on improving assessment law and application since the mid-1970s, including in federal jurisdiction, most provinces and all three territories, and with several Indigenous authorities. His assessment-related efforts for the past couple of decades have focused mostly on integration of serious commitment to sustainability in next generation assessment law and practice, and in individual assessments at the project and strategic levels. His most recent book is Sustainability assessment: applications and opportunities (London: Routledge, 2017).



Participant Biographies

Kerrie Goodwin

Kerrie Goodwin is a professional urban planner who has worked in land use planning, infrastructure & environmental approvals since 1998. She has worked in EA/IA since 2005, with EAA. Kerrie joined the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada) in 2007 within the Review Panels division assessing major resource development proposals including the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline.

Don Gorber

Dr. Don Gorber has over 50 years of environmental consulting experience, which includes extensive EA experience such as carrying out the first private sector EA in Ontario and the first federal EA in Canada. He was seconded to NRCan for two years to serve as EA Manager for the federal Siting Task Force on Low Level Radioactive Waste. Don's specialty is directing and managing large multidisciplinary and multi-consultant teams mainly on controversial EA projects in the nuclear, hydroelectric, transmission lines, pipelines, oil and gas, waste management, transportation and mining sectors in Canada and overseas. Don has worked with Indigenous Peoples (First Nations and Metis) on a variety of projects either as clients or on behalf of government and industrial proponents. Most of these interactions have occurred in northern and southern Ontario, New Brunswick, as well as in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. Don was the founding President and Director of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Sustainability of SENES Consultants for over 35 years and currently leads IEC.

Cathy Grant

Cathy Grant is a professional engineer with extensive experience in environmental policy, regulation development, stakeholder / community consultation and air pollution abatement. Cathy formerly worked for the Ontario Public Service and developed regulations to protect the public from the risks of industrial air pollution. She along with Scott are now principals in C&S Grant Environmental Consulting Inc. which was formed in 2019 with the goal of providing advice and technical support related to air pollution control, risks and community consultation.



Participant Biographies

Scott Grant

Scott Grant is a professional engineer with extensive experience in air pollution control, regulation development, stakeholder / community consultation and combustion engineering. Scott formerly worked for the Ontario Public Service and developed regulations to protect the public from the risks of industrial air pollution. He along with Cathy Grant are now principals in C&S Grant Environmental Consulting Inc. which was formed in 2019 with the goal of providing advice and technical support related to air pollution control, risks and community consultation.

Anneliese Grieve

Anneliese Grieve is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and is Managing Director at Anneliese Grieve Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions. She is an expert in the application of environmental assessment and decision-making processes for the approval of complex and controversial projects and has specialized expertise in conducting social impact assessments and stakeholder engagement. Anneliese was a member of the team undertaking an SEA for Wood Buffalo National Park.

Kevin Hanna

Kevin Hanna, Ph.D., is Director of the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research at the University of British Columbia, and Associate Member of the Faculty of Forestry. His research focuses on integrated approaches to natural resource management, environmental assessment, cumulative effects assessment, and energy resources and systems. He is the co-chair of the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge, which provides advice to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on the implementation of the Impact Assessment Act. He is a member of the Environmental Assessment Implementation Advisory Committee to the BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Michael Heralll

Michael Heralll is a Senior Manager, Environment at City of Brampton in the Greater Toronto Area. Previously, Michael was a Supervisor, Flood Risk Management at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.



Participant Biographies

Sam Hunter

Sam Hunter was born October 1965 at Hawley Lake at Ontario's far north. Growing up, in tents, sod teepees, at his homelands which many term "trapline." Today, Sam is working on climate change as a natural resources monitor.

Anna Johnston

Anna Johnston is a staff lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, where she works on environmental impact assessment, cumulative effects, constitutional law and climate law. She co-chairs the Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network, and is a member of the Minister's Advisory Council appointed to advise the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change in implementing the Impact Assessment Act. Anna holds a BA and LLB from the University of Victoria, and an LLM from Dalhousie University.

Sharilyn Johnston

Sharilyn Johnston is a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She is currently employed as the Environment Coordinator for Aamjiwnaang First Nation and has been working with the Aamjiwnaang people in this capacity since 2007. Sharilyn works very closely with Chief and Council and the Environment Committee to provide updated information on the ongoing environmental issues and challenges faced by the community. She has worked alongside regulators and industry to ensure Aamjiwnaang's interests are heard as they assert their rights to be consulted and have a say in what happens in their territory.

Mike Koostachin

Mike Koostachin is a Cree community member from the Attawapiskat First Nation and a band member of the Fort Albany First Nation in Treaty 9 territory. He has lived and worked throughout northern Ontario and in fly-in Indigenous communities as a contract mental health worker, working particularly with at-risk youth.



*Interested in
sponsoring OAIA's
next webinar or
conference?*

[**Contact Us**](#)

Participant Biographies

Ross Lashbrook

Ross Lashbrook worked at different divisions of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) for 13 years before moving to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). After two years with MMAH in the Central Ontario Municipal Services Office, he is back at MECP to lead the EA modernization initiative.

Evan Laye

Evan Laye, from Selkirk, Manitoba, is a research associate and graduate student at the University of British Columbia's Centre for Environmental Assessment Research. He completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science, focused in Northern Development, at the University of Manitoba in 2015, which included an exchange program at Linköping University in Sweden. Evan has worked predominantly within the environmental assessment sector for federal, provincial, and Indigenous governments. More recently he has worked for the National Research Council of Canada completing federal lands impact assessments and species at risk protection projects and has prior experience with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Melissa Mayhew

Melissa Mayhew is with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). Since 2010, Melissa has been responsible for the management of biodiversity programs at the NWMO. Her technical studies focus on better understanding the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems. Previously, she worked as an impact assessment consultant specializing in nuclear power and radioactive waste management projects. Melissa holds a Master of Science degree from Trinity College Dublin and Bachelor of Science (Environment) from the University of Guelph. She is an active member of the International Association for Impact Assessment and a contributing author to the forthcoming Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Values Assessment.

Rhys McMaster

Rhys McMaster is a member of the Siksika Nation and a Master of Science student at the University of Saskatchewan in the Geography and Planning department, as a part of the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) Partnership. Rhys is the 2021 recipient of the Ontario Impact Assessment Award and student bursary. She received Bachelor of Science, with Honors, in Environmental Earth Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 2019.

Participant Biographies

Sandy Nairn

Sandy Nairn, MCIP, RPP is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and he has over 30 years of experience in the environmental planning field in both the public and private sectors specializing in transportation infrastructure. He is a Board Member of OAIA and is a registered professional planner. Sandy has completed well over 100 Impact Assessment (IA) studies for various public and private sector clients. His career experience includes application of various environmental assessment regimes working with Indigenous communities, government ministries, municipalities and private sector developers. Sandy has provided expert advice to clients on environmental assessment process, policy development and environmental assessment audits.

Martin Olszynski

Martin Olszynski is an associate professor in the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law. His primary research interests are in environmental, natural resources, and water law and policy. He holds BSc and LLB degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, an LLM from the University of California at Berkeley, and is currently pursuing a PhD in resource management at the University of British Columbia's Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. He was a member of the Council of Canadian Academies' expert panel on integrated natural resources management (2016-19) and is currently a member of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada's advisory committee on impact assessment.

Luis Orantes

Luis Orantes, is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and Environmental Director at Parsons. Previously, Luis was an ECWE Consultant at Metrolinx and has also held positions at WSP and Morrison Hershfield.

Simon Popescu

Simon Popescu (He/Him) is a Geography and Environmental Management student specializing in Earth Systems Science at the University of Waterloo. He has recently completed a diploma in Environmental Assessment and is the co-founder and President of The University of Waterloo's Environmental Assessment Review Society. Simon has worked with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to support program implementation as well as stakeholder and intergovernmental collaboration. He is also a hydrology researcher and a contributing author on peer-reviewed publications in press.

Participant Biographies

Anjala Puvananathan

Anjala Puvananathan (she/her) is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and the Director (Ontario Region) at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. Anjala has significant experience in the federal civil service working in predominantly policy and management positions in the areas of environment, labour markets, health and public health.

Brady Reid

Brady Reid is a PhD Student in Rural Studies at the University of Guelph. Brady identifies as a settler-scholar with Mi'kmaw heritage and has explored topics surrounding Indigenous identity and self-determination on large-scale land-use projects. After completing his master's degree in Environmental Policy, Brady collaborated with Mi'kmaw community members to write, produce, and publish a podcast discussing research ethics and working with Indigenous communities.

Dayna Nadine Scott

Dayna Nadine Scott is an Associate Professor and Research Chair in Environmental Law & Justice at Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change at York University. She is co-Director of Osgoode's Environmental Justice & Sustainability Clinic.

Blair Shoniker

Blair Shoniker, MA, RPP, is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and a Principal/Senior Waste and Environmental Planner at GHD Limited.

John Sinclair

John Sinclair, is a professor and the Director of the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba. His main research interest focuses on governance and learning as they relate to resource and environmental decision-making. He has been very active over the last twenty-five years in environmental assessment law and policy and is co-editor of a recent book on the Canadian Impact Assessment Act.

Meg St. John

Meg St. John is a Senior Project Manager at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority based in Vaughan, Ontario. Meg received a Bachelor of Science degree from University Of Toronto.

Participant Biographies

Laura Tanguay

Laura Tanguay is a third year PhD student in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. In her doctoral research, she investigates the repercussions of megaproject waste in the North. Engaging with concepts of environmental justice, militarization, and institutionalized 'othering,' she connects facets of neoliberalism with the disruption of natural landscapes for state-driven capitalistic interests.

Toby James Thorne

Toby James Thorne is the coordinator of the Toronto Zoo's Native Bat Conservation Program. He has around 20 years of experience with temperate bat species and has led the Zoo's program for the past five. Toby studies bats through acoustic surveys, trapping and radio-telemetry, and is the author of a field guide to Ontario bats. Toby is also a member of the Committee of the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario.

Jasmine Williams

Jasmine Williams is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Toronto (UofT), where her field research into wood ash amendments on mine tailings is supported by both the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Newmont Mining Corporation. Prior to graduate research with UofT, Ms. Williams earned a Bachelor's degree in Mining and Environmental Engineering at McGill University and gained valuable experience working as an engineer with Osisko Gold Mining Corporation, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Richmond Mines, and as a Consultation Coordinator with the Métis Nation of Ontario. Her research and career objectives focus on teaching and developing novel approaches to mining restoration as well as the integration of Traditional Knowledge and Practices into applied tailings decontamination.

Beth Williston

Beth Williston is a member of the 2021 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and the Associate Director, Infrastructure Planning and Permits at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Beth is a Professional Planner, and is a career conservationist. Beth has worked in infrastructure planning for the past 15 years. She is responsible for overseeing the environmental review of all infrastructure projects in the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's nine watersheds across the Greater Toronto Area. She works closely with municipalities, the province and many consultants to ensure efficient service delivery and effective natural resource management in Toronto and the Region.

Interested in becoming involved with OAIA?

There are many ways to be involved:

- ✓ Organize events relevant to impact assessment.
- ✓ Promote research and training in impact assessment.
- ✓ Promote public understanding of impact assessment.
- ✓ Advance the goals of reconciliation by encouraging and supporting Indigenous consultation and engagement in impact assessment.
- ✓ Encourage the development of refined approaches and methods for integrating impact assessment into planning, decision-making, and management processes.
- ✓ Contribute – on behalf of members – to public policy discussions related to the role of impact assessment in Ontario and the rest of Canada.



**Ontario Association for
Impact Assessment**

***Want to learn more
and get involved?***

Please contact us:

info@oaia.on.ca

Click Here

***We would
appreciate your
feedback!***

***Please complete the
2021 OAIA Conference
Evaluation Form online.***

Click Here

Gold Sponsors



MORRISON HERSHFIELD

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Coffee Break Sponsors

