

OIAA

IMPACT &
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:
IT'S A LOT & WE CAN GET GREAT
THINGS DONE

*A RECIPE FOR MEANINGFUL
ASSESSMENTS IN A TIME OF
INNOVATION, MODERNIZATION,
AND UNCERTAINTY*

2024 CONFERENCE



OIAA

Ontario Association for
Impact Assessment

30TH

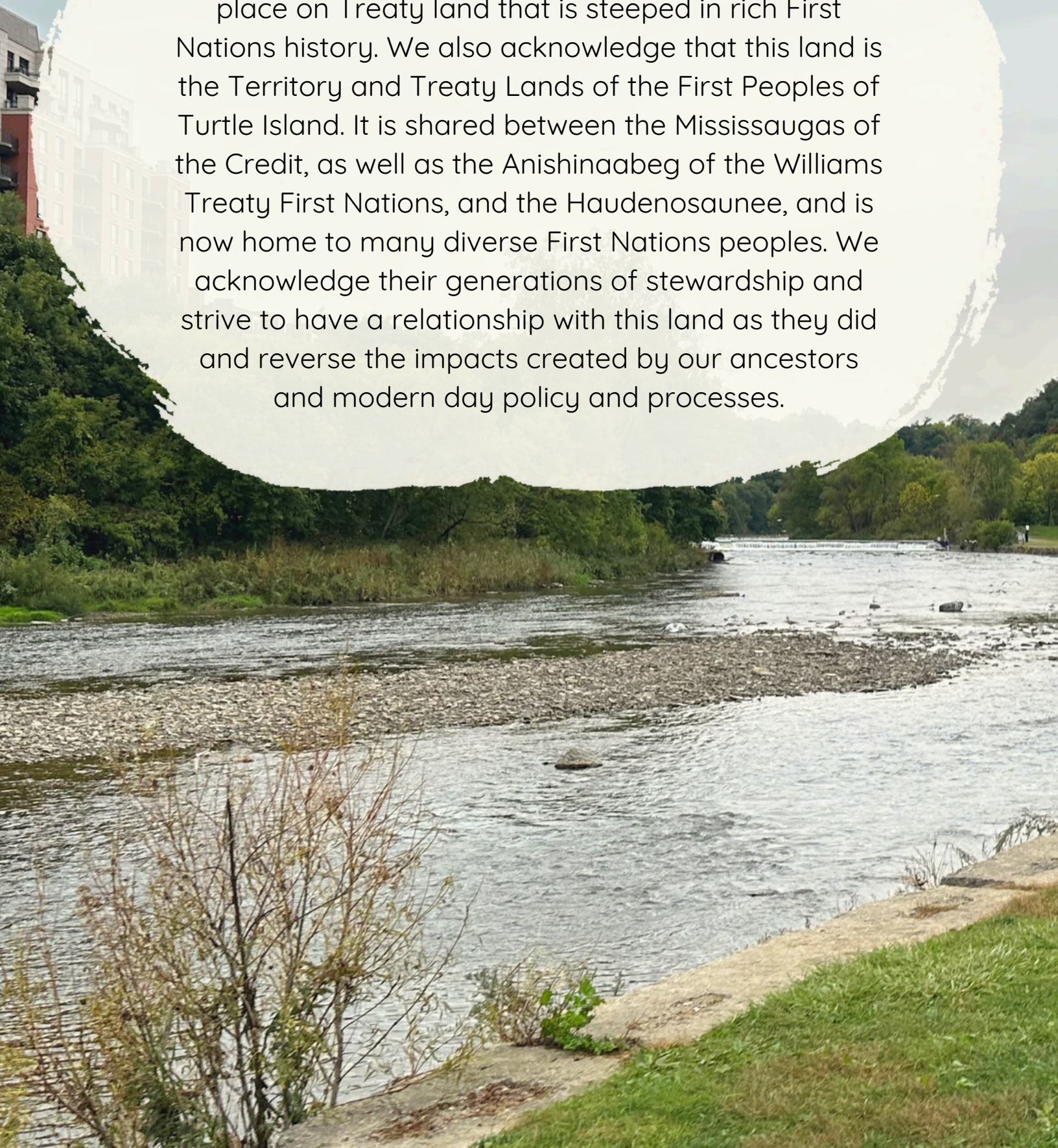
ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2024

THE OLD MILL | TORONTO

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The OAIA acknowledges that our conference is taking place on Treaty land that is steeped in rich First Nations history. We also acknowledge that this land is the Territory and Treaty Lands of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. It is shared between the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, and the Haudenosaunee, and is now home to many diverse First Nations peoples. We acknowledge their generations of stewardship and strive to have a relationship with this land as they did and reverse the impacts created by our ancestors and modern day policy and processes.



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2024 OAIA Annual Conference at The Old Mill in Toronto! Thanks to the leadership of our Conference Chair, Violetta Savage (City of Toronto), and the rest of the conference planning committee, we have an outstanding conference program planned and are excited to share it with you over the two days of the conference.

I have no doubt you will find the many conference sessions of great interest with respect to both Impact Assessments (IA) and Environmental Assessments (EA), and in your respective roles as a practitioner, regulator, First Nation, NGOs, or academic. Our three main areas of focus have been interwoven in the sessions, where we will spend the two days exploring Indigenous-led IAs and EAs, processes and streamlining, as well as the value of relationships.

Gary Pritchard (Curve Lake First Nations) and Chair of the OAIA Indigenous Knowledge Committee as well as committee member Lindsay Bain (Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation), will be leading a walk on the Humber River first thing in the morning of Conference Day 2. This walk is intended to address First Nations perspectives of the Humber River, and our relationships with the land, water and people. The value of such relationships cannot be understated. To this end, I am also very much looking forward to meeting with so many of you during the conference, on the Indigenous Oral History Walk, and during our evening social at the end of Day 1, which I hope you all plan to attend.

While at the conference, please ensure you check out the sponsor information in the program and on the display boards around the meeting room. If you get a chance, please be sure to personally thank our sponsors for their generous support for without them, the conference would not be possible. To our students and young practitioners, I extend a very warm welcome. I encourage you to come early, stay late, and network during the breaks and events. The seasoned IA and EA specialists who attend the conference, I am sure, will be happy to engage. All you need to do is introduce yourself!

To our presenters, your support of and dedication to OAIA and the field of IA and EA is noted and appreciated. Through information sharing at the conference, we know you will leave us all with thoughts to ponder and actions to consider as we work together to create spaces that are safe for dialogue, take action that is efficient and effective, and improve our connections and ability to pick up the phone and brainstorm a future issue with a new colleague.

Finally, to everyone, OAIA needs you. The OAIA Board of Directors have been working hard behind the scenes to update our program deliverables to the standards of today, and to brainstorm what we need to do over the next few years to broaden engagement and knowledge sharing. Your support through attending conferences and webinars, becoming a member, and volunteering to assist our committees is so very appreciated. Please stay tuned as we have an exciting 2025 planned!

I hope you enjoy the conference. See you soon!



Beth Williston, OAIA President

Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors!

GOLD

INDIGENOUS

HATCH



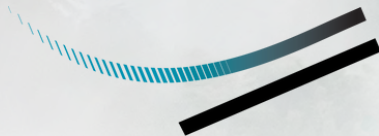
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AND ASSOCIATES

Every year, OAIA makes a donation in lieu of speakers' gifts to an organization that is focused on environmental stewardship, human health and wellbeing or 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 work of the EcoSchools Canada in their support of environmental leadership and climate action in schools. EcoSchools Canada offers a certification program for elementary through secondary schools, nurturing environmental learning and climate action. Their innovative and bilingual certification program is free for publicly funded schools, it helps to incentivize, track and reward environmental actions that reduce energy and waste, raise awareness and incorporate environmental learning into curriculum. A \$500 donation was made to EcoSchools Canada on behalf of OAIA. We encourage you to learn more about their important work.



2024 OAIA CONFERENCE

IMPACT & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: IT'S A LOT & WE CAN GET GREAT THINGS DONE

A RECIPE FOR MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENTS IN A TIME OF INNOVATION, MODERNIZATION & UNCERTAINTY

Environmental Assessment (EA) and Impact Assessment (IA) practitioners are pulled in a lot of directions during the course of IA/EAs, with the goal of ensuring the process remains efficient, meaningful, informed, transparent, and inclusive. By prioritizing and focusing, we can strike the correct balance ensuring robust, high-quality, and meaningful IA/EAs. So, while IA/EAs have become a catchall of ideas and aspirations, we can get great things done.

The conference will explore the notion of working in a time of innovation and modernization, ensuring that the vision and principles for assessments are maintained all while not losing focus on the bigger picture questions.

Practitioners need to be well positioned to collect the right information and conduct analysis with a view to maximizing outcomes and minimize impacts on Indigenous culture and traditions, health and socio-economic conditions, as well as archaeology, paleontology and the biophysical environment. With a vision to engage earlier and more effectively to build trusted relationships so that assessments can respond to the pertinent questions from participants at the onset rather than collecting information for information's sake. Without questioning the bigger picture, we leave ourselves with the unsophisticated notion that IA/EAs are simply too resource intensive.

Practitioners must also learn from Indigenous communities, respecting Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing as it should be and harmonizing this knowledge with western scientific methods in the assessment processes.

The complexity of information available to practitioners can seem daunting, and this conference is intended to aid practitioners to stay focused on the vision and not feel swung in different directions between streamlined processes, prioritizing information, and new technologies. The vision is for practitioners to learn to balance this wealth of information along with the emergence of new technology tools, mapping and database tools, and artificial intelligence. Are some practices more useful in certain circumstances? What does meaningful engagement look like on your project? Where is the sweet spot and how does the practitioner decide on it for different projects in different contexts?

THE 2024 CONFERENCE EXPLORES THREE PROGRAM AREAS:

Program Area One:

Indigenous-led EA/IA Processes

Exploring Indigenous and community-led assessments processes, what does the process look like and how does it differ from Federal, Provincial and Municipal processes.

Program Area Two:

Streamlining Processes, Prioritizing Information, & Asking the Right Questions

If the process is too cumbersome and when we don't collect the right information we slow down. Continued streamlining efforts are imperative, however we need to ensure this is done while adhering to the core principles (transparent, inclusive, informed and meaningful). An important and often overlooked component of improving efficiency is ensuring we get the right information at the pre-planning stage and pre-permit stages, not later during the decision-making stages. We need to look at the big picture at the onset of assessments and ask the correct questions early-on to help focus our efforts. We also need to ensure these questions are in fact answered through the assessments and projects we deliver.

Program Area Three:

Value Relationships

If we don't engage the right regulators, stakeholders, and Indigenous communities, at the outset of the project, we slow down. If we want to improve IA/EAs, we need to initiate, develop, and foster relationships for the long term. When we don't take the time to develop relationships, we lose the chance to develop trust. Without trust it is hard to effectively move forward.



2024 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Violetta Savage | 2024 Conference Chair | City of Toronto

Catherine Caetano-Macdonell | Toronto Metropolitan University

Mark MacDougall | Shared Value Solutions

Hayley Austin | Stantec

Rebecca D'Onofrio | Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission


Catherine Gentile | WSP

Catherine Macdonell | Toronto Metropolitan University

Greg McKenzie | Blue Moth Creative

Anjala Puvananathan | Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Sabrina Wong | Dillon



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HATCH

DAY AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 23RD

8:30am - 9:00am

Registration & Light Refreshments

9:00am - 9:05am

Welcome Elder & Call All to Seats

9:05am - 9:30am

Elder Traditional Opening & Smudging with
Elder Lorenzo Whetung & Gary Pritchard (Curve Lake First Nation)

9:30am - 9:40am

Land Acknowledgement & President's Welcome with Beth Williston

9:40am - 4:45pm

Session 1: Managing Uncertainty

How do we increase the confidence in projects/study results/processes in the face of unknowns. When we predict the environment will behave in a certain way how do we monitor for success or what occurs if the predictions do not come to fruition? What is the role of follow-up programs in building confidence?

Session 2: Bringing it All Together

Streamlining processes, managing and prioritizing information and asking/answering the right questions.

Session 3: Consultation & Engagement

How has this changed in process and/vs in practice. How is technology being used? How should technology be used to enhance consultation and engagement? How can Indigenous or community-led assessment bridge gaps in understanding and expectations.

Session 4: The Crystal Ball

What should EA/IA processes focus on? Should there be one size fits all or flexibility to focus and scope based on environmental, social, technical contexts? If there is flexibility, how would practitioners build buy-in and trust with Indigenous communities and public participants?

4:45pm - 5:00pm

Closing Remarks from President Beth Williston

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Networking & Socializing / Complimentary Appetizers & Cash Bar

PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 1: MANAGING UNCERTAINTY

Moderator: Sarah Merriam, Parsons

1 (A)	9:40am - 10:10am	Innovations In Field Studies for EAs / IA - With Advancing Technology Are We Up To The Challenge?	As legislative amendments continue, including the Fisheries Act, the Conservation Authorities Act, and Migratory Birds Convention Act, practitioners modernize to meet new requirements. This presentation will explore new innovations in field studies (such as Environmental DNA (eDNA)), and how these can benefit the EA/IA process, and discuss how to strike the correct balance of ensuring robust, high-quality, and meaningful IA/EAs.	Kimberly Laframboise, HDR
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1 (B)	10:10am - 10:25am	New Nuclear Project Impact Assessment in Canada: Navigating First-of-a-Kind Projects in an Uncertain Regulatory Landscape	As new nuclear development proposals emerge, impact assessment for nuclear projects have both opportunities and challenges in order to integrate the requirements, where applicable, of the Impact Assessment Act, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licensing requirements. Case studies from across Canada will focus on technical challenges related to greenfield nuclear development.	Cole Atlin, Calian Nuclear Kieran Potter, Calian Nuclear
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Break & Networking
10:25am - 10:45am

1 (C)	10:45 am - 11:00am	Impacts of Today's Decisions in an Uncertain Tomorrow: A Review of Adaptation in the Mining Sector	Few studies have assessed efficacy of climate adaptation in mine closure plans. This presentation would highlight best practices in the Canadian context on the adaptive response to climate change during closure and elucidate climate risks associated with post-closure mine sites.	Trennon Wint, Student, University of Guelph Winner of the 2024 OAIA Student Bursary
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PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
1 (D)	11:00am - 11:20am	Exploring the Landscape of Post-Environmental Assessment Support	Following the environmental assessment (EA), EA commitments are transferred to designers, permitting conditions, and then subsequently to a contractor; and there is a time lag that creates uncertainties. Using case studies, this presentation will emphasize the vital role of adaptive management and continuous improvement to manage uncertainties in the long-term effectiveness of EAs.	David Kielstra, Stantec

Q & A with Kimberly, Cole, Kieran, Trennon, and David
11:20am - 11:40am

Lunch
11:45am - 12:45am



PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 2: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Moderator: Faiza Waheed, Intrinsik

2 (A)	12:45 pm - 1:15pm	Modernizing Process & Maintaining Environmental Accountability	The Province of Ontario is proposing to replace the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) with a streamlined Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP) regulation under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act), which would not apply to roads. While creating flexibilities for municipalities, the proposed regulation would not hold municipalities accountable for environmental planning principles in transportation design. To compensate and maintain environmental accountability, Peel Region and the City of Mississauga have adopted a multi-modal integrated approach to transportation planning. Having an integrated plan reduces cost and minimizes disruption to the community.	Sonya Bubas, City of Mississauga Neal Smith, Peel Region
2 (B)	1:15pm - 1:35pm	York Region Sewage Works Project Report: A Case Study for Streamlined IA	The York Region Sewage Works Project Report is a case study for what Environmental Assessments for municipal infrastructure in Ontario could look like in the future. This streamlined program-level impact assessment process was driven by the provinces' aggressive housing targets and the Supporting Growth in York and Durham Region Act, which directed York and Durham Regions to undertake a program-level impact assessment for over 20 individual projects.	Katrina McCullough, GHD Jasmine Biasi, Jacobs

Q & A with Sonya, Neal, Katrina, and Jasmine
1:35pm - 1:55pm

Break & Networking
2:00pm - 2:20pm



PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 3: CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Moderator: Kevin Hanna, UBC

3 (A)	2:20pm - 2:45pm	Understanding Relationships as Critical Path for Project Delivery	Engagement with regulators, stakeholders, and Indigenous communities is essential for the critical path of project delivery, as well as the overall viability of projects. Projects have always been politicized; however, due to the rise of social media, changes in media consumption patterns, and the general availability of information, the perception of projects matters more than ever before. This presentation will examine some of the trends that are taking place in consultation, engagement, and long-term relationship development, and how the EA and IA industry needs to adapt in order to meet the expectations of the public, stakeholders, and Indigenous communities.	Jeremiah Pariag, HDR
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PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
3 (B)	2:45 pm - 3:05pm	From the Ground Up: Webequie's Recipe for Successful Indigenous-Led Projects	Webequie First Nation is a remote community located in the Ring of Fire area of Ontario's Far North. The Community has been undertaking an Indigenous-led assessment for the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project, a proposed all-season road connecting Webequie First Nation to the Ring of Fire area. This supply road will enable Webequie to improve its community well-being and socio-economic opportunities. The presentation will highlight community-based and innovative methods of engagement with its community members and neighbouring communities. Overall, this presentation will showcase how Indigenous-led principles have been implemented in the Indigenous and public review process.	Marian Tibor-McMahon & Michael Fox, Indigenous & Community Engagement (ICE) Inc.
3 (C)	3:05pm - 3:25pm	Innovative Approaches to Building Impact Assessment Capacity in Omushkego Communities	Mushkegowuk Council responds to the collective will of the Omushkego Nation. Omushkego communities are experiencing development pressures and are involved in impact assessments for the Webequie Supply Road, Marten Falls Community Access Road, and the Northern Road Link, as well as the Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire. These assessments involve an immense amount of western scientific data and Indigenous knowledge. These assessments are complex and challenging because they are occurring concurrently and within the context of sustained socio-economic inequality, and climate change impacts on community life. To build confidence and capacity in IA, Omushkego communities propose to establish community and external IA expert advisory groups, draft an Impact Assessment Toolkit and Certification Program, and deliver information and training through art and a GeoHUB.	Caroline Coburn, Odonaterra Inc. Alana Graham, Mushkegowuk Council

Q & A with Jeremiah, Marian, Michael, Caroline, and Alana
3:25pm - 3:45pm



PROGRAM: DAY ONE, OCTOBER 23RD

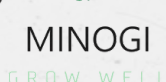
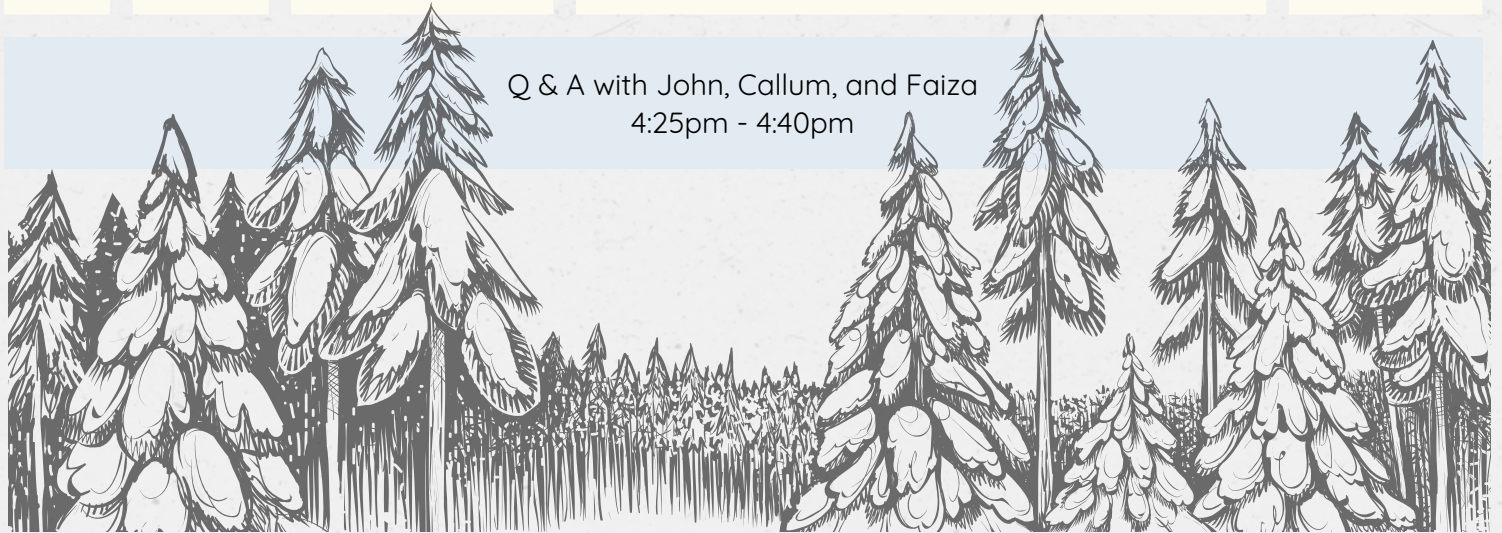
Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 4: THE CRYSTAL BALL

Moderator: Sarah MacKinnon, WSP

4 (A)	3:45pm - 4:05pm	Waasigan Transmission Line Comprehensive Environmental Assessment & Indigenous Engagement & Partnerships	The Waasigan Transmission Line, a proposed 360 km line connecting Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah to Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and on to Dryden TS in the City of Dryden, is Hydro One's first comprehensive EA in over 15 years. This presentation will highlight participation opportunities for Indigenous communities, as well as the natural environment field program. Engagement with Indigenous communities was key and there were many lessons learned related to incorporating Indigenous perspectives and how to remove barriers to participation.	John Chadwick, Hydro One Callum Squires, WSP
4 (B)	4:05pm - 4:25pm	The Human Environment in EAs/IAs: Areas Building & Valuing Relationships	This presentation will shed light on identifying what needs to be assessed (i.e., scoping). This presentation will highlight opportunities and challenges with survey tools and shed thoughts on 1) the questions that should be asked; 2) how we should ask these questions and of whom; 3) when we need to start asking questions; 4) the information we should be prepared to share with communities; and 5) the mindset we should bring to the table.	Faiza Waheed, Intrinsik

Q & A with John, Callum, and Faiza
4:25pm - 4:40pm



A photograph of two large fish, likely Atlantic salmon, jumping over a small waterfall in a river. The fish are captured mid-leap, with water splashing around them. The background shows lush green foliage and trees.

INDIGENOUS ORAL HISTORY WALK

LED BY GARY PRITCHARD

“LITTLE THUNDERING WATERS”

Wampum belts tell history through symbolism and interpretation. They also represent the commitments made between settlers and Indigenous groups, in Canada and the United States to share and care for the land and resources. Environmental and Impact Assessments are designed to understand not just impacts on the biophysical environment, but also the cultural and social environment. In considering responsible development through the lens of Environmental and Impact Assessments, there is a duty that is owed by all to understand and respect the commitments made through treaty, and represented in Wampum belts.

Set against the backdrop of Gabekanaang-ziibi, meaning: “little thundering waters” (the Humber River), an area of significant cultural importance and also an area of intense development, Garry Pritchard will lead a walk along the river, sharing the history of treaty in southern Ontario and speaking importance of understanding responsibilities we share in honouring treaties.

If you missed the walk there is still an opportunity to participate during the post walk chat with Gary Pritchard being held after lunch on Thursday, October 24th (Day 2 of the conference).



DAY AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 24TH

8:00am - 9:00am

Indigenous Oral History Walk Along Humber River
(Registration Required) / Led by Gary Pritchard

9:00am - 9:30am

Registration & Light Refreshments

9:30am - 9:40am

Conference Opening & Land Acknowledgement
Led by Violetta Savage

9:40am - 3:30pm

Session 5: Jurisdictional Roles & Responsibilities

Where applicable, both the federal and provincial IA/EA processes are meaningful and assess effects as defined in the respective legislative frameworks.

Session 6: Process Modernization

Lessons learned from process modernization effects on different valued components, in different sectors or in different jurisdictions.

Session 7: Data & Technology

What are the modern tools currently available and innovations that might help IA/EA? How is technology changing and how are we using it? How has technology created process efficiencies?

3:30pm - 3:40pm

Closing Remarks & Annual General Meeting Notification
Led by Beth Williston

3:40pm - 4:00pm

Elder Traditional Closing
Led by Elder Lorenzo Whetung (Curve Lake First Nation)



PROGRAM: DAY TWO, OCTOBER 24TH

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 5: JURISDICTIONAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Moderator: Paula Hohner, Stantec

5 (A)	9:40am - 10:00am	Changes to Federal Impact Assessment	This presentation will provide an overview of the amended Impact Assessment Act and the new initiatives announced in Budget 2024 to improve the efficiency of the impact assessment and permitting processes for clean growth projects, including new timeline targets, added transparency through a Federal Permitting Dashboard, and improved coordination of impacts assessments and permitting.	Terence (Terry) Hubbard, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
5 (B)	10:00am - 10:20am	Update on Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act	This presentation will provide an update on the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' ongoing initiatives to modernize the environmental assessment program in Ontario.	Peter Brown & Dilek Postacioglu, MECP

Q & A with Terence, Peter, and Dilek
10:20am - 10:40am

Break & Networking
10:40am - 10:55am



PROGRAM: DAY TWO, OCTOBER 24TH

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
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SESSION 6: PROCESS MODERNIZATION

Moderator: Katherine Bibby

6 (A)	10:55am - 11:20am	A Space for Indigenous Led Impact Assessments	Promoting reconciliation is at the core of federal assessments and is demonstrated by the early identification of potential impacts of projects on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. That said, it is preferable for Indigenous Peoples to lead their own studies. However, respectful and meaningful integration of Indigenous-led impact assessments (ILIA) into proponent-led and government-mandated Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) remains a challenge. Is there a way of developing a space for ILIAs in the EIA process that does not compromise or water down Indigenous Knowledge (IK)?	Mina Patel, WSP
6 (B)	11:20am - 11:40am	Lithium Hydroxide Conversion Plant in Quebec: Lessons Learned from a Voluntary EIA Using the Issue-Based Approach	Nemaska Lithium Inc. (NLI) is a company in the new transition renewables economy and is building a plant in Bécancour, Quebec to convert spodumene into monohydroxide lithium. To obtain all permits and streamline dialogue with stakeholders and Indigenous communities, NIL create a streamlined voluntary environmental and social assessment process that prioritized environmental data and assessed potential impacts by addressing key considerations through a new “issues-based” provincial EIA process. This presentation will outline how the EIA process in Quebec was modernized.	Robert Young, Hatch



PROGRAM: DAY TWO, OCTOBER 24TH

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
6 (C)	11:40am - 12:00pm	Modernizing While Maintaining Safety: Integrated Assessments for Designated Nuclear Projects	As new nuclear development proposals emerge to meet electricity demands, requirements of the Impact Assessment Act and the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (NSCA) must be integrated to meet the goal of “one project, one assessment”. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) established a Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines roles and responsibilities for the review process. IAAC and the CNSC have been actively working to implement a modernized process that reduces duplication and improves efficiency, while ensuring Indigenous Rights and nuclear safety remain top priorities.	Claire O'Neill Sanger, IAAC Kendra Warnock-Juteau, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Q & A with Mina, Robert, Claire, and Kendra
12:00pm - 12:20pm

Lunch
12:20pm - 1:20pm

Indigenous Oral History Walk - Post Walk Chat with Gary Pritchard
1:20pm - 1:45pm

SESSION 7: DATA & TECHNOLOGY

Moderator: Katherine Bibby

7 (A)	1:45 pm - 2:15pm	Technology & the EA Process - Where to Focus?	The world of technology and AI is evolving at a faster pace than ever before. As an EA Practitioner, it can be challenging to know where to start applying new technologies and what risks to be aware of. This presentation is intended to generate discussion on the use of technology by EA Practitioners and learn from others' experiences - both the good and the bad.	Sabrina Wong, Jessica Wright, & Greg Hayes, Dillon
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Break & Networking
2:15pm - 2:30pm



PROGRAM: DAY TWO, OCTOBER 24TH

Item	Time	Topic	Abstract	Presenters
7 (B)	2:30pm - 2:45pm	Open Science & Data Platform: Empowering Canada's Environmental and Impact Assessment Processes	The Open Science and Data Platform's records and functionalities help users utilize information to improve environmental and impact assessment processes, including geospatial data, science, and regulatory information, multi-dimensional baseline and timeseries data, and the ability to layer data in an interactive map viewer to inform cumulative effects at multiple scales. The presentation will highlight how diverse users leverage the Platform to support an efficient and enhanced IA process.	Sonja Kosuta, Natural Resources Canada
7 (C)	2:45pm - 3:00pm	CNSC Engagement Through Environmental Protection Reviews	The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) staff publish environmental protection review (EPR) reports to provide transparency on staff's evaluation of how effectively nuclear facilities are protecting human health and the environment. CNSC also maintains an Independent Environmental Monitoring Program, regional health studies, monitoring programs, and Indigenous knowledge studies.	Kendra Warnock-Juteau, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rebecca D'Onofrio, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
7 (D)	3:00 pm - 3:15pm	Enhancing Planning Operations & Decision-making through Automation & Data Insights at TRCA	TRCA has launched its new PARES platform as it continues to make significant investments in modernizing its planning and permitting services. TRCA's new tools are providing better collaboration on files, improved efficiency and more visibility to team activities. This presentation will provide an update on the PARES project and highlight new ways TRCA is continuing to advance its services, including an upcoming public portal for permit applications, enhancements of GIS services for infrastructure reviews, map production automation, and new data analytics services for decision-making.	Mark McKnight, TRCA Beth Williston, TRCA

Q & A with Sabrina, Sonja, Kendra, Rebecca, and Mark
3:15pm - 3:30pm



BIOGRAPHIES

Cole Atlin

Dr. Cole Atlin is an impact assessment practitioner that works for on new nuclear project development for clients across Canada. Cole has expertise in next generation impact assessment processes including sustainability based assessment, Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), Indigenous engagement, and strategic assessment. She has a PhD in Social and Ecological Sustainability from the University of Waterloo.

Hayley Austin

Hayley Austin, BES, is an Environmental Assessment Planner with Stantec Consulting Ltd. She has been working at Stantec since 2022 and has experience in consulting on federal impact assessment and provincial and municipal environmental assessment projects in Ontario. Hayley is a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA), where she is the Secretary, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Liaison and co-chair of the Communications Committee.

Jasmine Biasi

Jasmine Biasi, P.Eng., is an environmental planner and engineer for water and wastewater infrastructure projects at Jacobs. Jasmine has more than 5 years' experience within the infrastructure planning, design and construction sectors, working directly with municipalities across Ontario to implement large scale infrastructure planning assessments, including Schedule 'B' and 'C' Environmental Assessments and Master Servicing Plans, making her proficient with the Municipal Class EA Process, Environmental Assessment Act, and implementation of Federal/ Provincial/ Local regulatory requirements related to Infrastructure Planning Capital Projects.

Katherine Bibby

Katherine Bibby, MCIP, RPP, is a Senior Environmental Planner at WSP, with fourteen years of experience in the transportation and land use sectors. She has led environmental assessments for transit, rail, highway and road infrastructure projects following various Ontario Class Environmental Assessment, Transit and Rail Assessment processes. She is also experienced in environmental compliance and permitting. Previously she has worked as a development planner at the Town of Caledon and Town of Aurora.

Peter Brown

Peter Brown, M.Sc., has worked in the fields of environmental assessment and Indigenous engagement for about twenty years, both as a private sector consultant and as an advisor in the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Peter is currently a Senior Advisor – Outreach in the Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch at MECP. When not reminiscing about his time as an OAIA Board member, Peter enjoys sports, cooking and the outdoors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sonya Bubas

Sonya Bubas, MCIP, RPP, is a Registered Professional Planner in Ontario and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. Sonya has over two decades of experience in environmental planning with emphasis on Provincial and Municipal Class Environmental Assessments for transportation projects. She recently joined the City of Mississauga as a Project Leader in Transportation and previously held roles as Project Manager and Environmental Planner in the public and private sectors.

John Chadwick

John Chadwick is a Senior Manager of Environmental Services at Hydro One and manages a team responsible for Environmental Assessments (EA) and oversees the life-cycle environmental management of Hydro One's Strategic Projects across Ontario. John is a professional geoscientist and has more than 23 years of diversified, quality-focused environmental management experience in leadership, project management, technical, field and training capacities across various sectors.

Caroline Coburn

Caroline Coburn, a professional planner with 30 years of experience, founded Odonaterra Inc. to create strategies and tools for stronger, balanced management of lands and resources and empowered, sustainable, healthy communities. Her has Canada-wide experience on impact assessments on oil and gas, mining, energy, nuclear, waste management, and infrastructure projects. Caroline served for 8 years on the Executive of the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA) and taught environmental geography at the University of Ottawa.

Rebecca D'Onofrio

Rebecca D'Onofrio, M.Sc., is a Senior Policy Officer at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Previously, Rebecca held positions with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, ERM consultants, and with mining companies in 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. She is also a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

Michael Fox

Michael Fox is from Weenusk First Nation and is the President/CEO of Indigenous Community Engagement (ICE) – one of Canada's leading national Indigenous firms specializing in community consultation, facilitation/negotiations, capacity building, & social research. He brings a wealth of experience in structuring projects and financing for both industry and Indigenous clients. He obtained an honours degree in Political Science with a focus on Aboriginal Law & Resource Development and has an MBA with a specialization in Social Enterprise.

BIOGRAPHIES

Catherine Gentile

Catherine Gentile, MCIP, RPP, is a Senior Environmental Planner and Environmental Impact Assessment Team Lead with WSP Canada. Catherine has 16 years of experience, spanning fields such as environmental planning, assessment, Indigenous consultation, as well as permits and approvals. She has applied environmental planning policies to over 40 transportation and infrastructure projects. Catherine manages the WSP Transportation Environmental Impact Assessment Team. She is also a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

Alana Graham

Alana Graham, spirit name Mishkinakkwe/Turtle Woman, Mikisew Doodem, proud member of Moose Cree First Nation in Mushkegowuk lands of the James Bay Cree, is the Impact Assessment Coordinator for Mushkegowuk Lands and Resources based in Timmins, Ontario. Alana grew up in Moosonee, Ontario and earned a BA in Community Economic Social Development through Algoma University in Timmins. She has focused her work on Indigenous services, specializing in program development and community projects in Mushkegowuk communities. She has been actively involved promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in social work and community development in Northern Ontario.



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BIOGRAPHIES

Kevin Hanna

Kevin Hanna is the Director Centre for Environmental Assessment Research at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Kevin is a member of the Technical Advisory committee on Science and Knowledge for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). Kevin's research at UBC focuses on environmental impact assessment and natural resources development. A key part of his research is working with Indigenous organizations to help outline data/information management approaches and tools, define best practices for impact assessment, and develop case studies to help communities design new methods for assessing projects. His current work focuses on the Canadian west, north, and Arctic.

Greg Hayes

Greg Hayes is an associate and environmental planner at Dillon Consulting Limited, with nine years of experience in environmental assessment (EA) and land use planning. His experience is focused on streamlined/Class EA studies for provincial and municipal roads, bridges, transit, water/wastewater, and related facilities. In addition to his project work, Greg leads a monthly call with Dillon's Environmental Planning Technical Group which involves discussion of best practices, emerging technologies, and other topics. One of the key focus areas of the call in recent months has been encouraging the group to use technology in EA studies by raising awareness of what tools are currently available as well as opportunities to apply technology in new, creative ways.

Paula Hohner

Paula Hohner, M.SC.Pl., RPP, is a Registered Professional Planner, Senior Associate and Senior Team Leader for Assessment & Permitting at Stantec Consulting Ltd. in London, Ontario. She has 27 years of experience, largely in consulting, in environmental assessment processes, developing consultation programs, and obtaining environmental permitting and approvals. She works with engineering teams to deliver preliminary design, design-build, design-bid-build and detailed design assignments and prepares environmental documentation and contract specifications/tenders and monitor requirements to satisfy regulatory agencies.

Terence (Terry) Hubbard

Terence Hubbard was appointed President of the Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) on November 28, 2021. Prior to joining IAAC in 2018, Terence was Director General of the Petroleum Resources Branch with Natural Resources Canada. In this role, he had responsibility for Canada's oil and gas policy, including serving as Canada's representative on the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained both his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in economics.

David Kielstra

David Kielstra is a Registered Professional Planner (OPPI) from Stantec. David has 14 years of experience in professional consulting, community engagement and environmental planning. His experiences range from the transportation, natural resources, energy and municipal sectors, with a focus on community engagement, socio-economic assessments. David enjoys working with a diverse team of environmental specialists and stakeholders to prepare multi-disciplinary impact assessments. He also has participated in environmental advisory committees, with a focus on sustainability issues, for the cities of Brantford and Kingston.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sonja Kosuta

Sonja Kosuta is Senior Director of Impact Assessment and Science Capacity NRCan's Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). In her role she manages delivery of the Government of Canada's Open Science and Data Platform and coordination of NRCan's science advice to Impact Assessment and related regulatory processes. Sonja joined OCS in 2022 from her role as Director of Forest Ecology, Partnerships and Planning at the Canadian Forest Service - Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. Sonja holds a PhD in molecular biology from Université Paul Sabatier (Toulouse, France), an MSc in environmental sciences from McGill University and a BSc in chemistry from McMaster University.

Kimberly Laframboise

Kim Laframboise is a Senior Ecologist with HDR's Environmental Sciences & Planning Group. She specializes in terrestrial and aquatic ecology, risk management, wildlife biology, Species at Risk, and contractor education. With over 18 years of experience, Ms. Laframboise has extensive expertise navigating the Environmental Assessment process and legislative framework. Kim is eager to share her experiences working within our industry from a field methodologies and field data collection aspect (new innovations) to support biophysical assessments and land use planning, which are vital stepping stones to any EA/IA process.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Mark MacDougall

Mark MacDougall, a Senior Regulatory Consultant with Shared Value Solutions, works to support communities navigate through impact assessments. Bridging technical and regulatory understanding, he focuses on ensuring that communities are equipped with a complete understanding of project impacts to allow for free and prior informed decision-making. Mark holds a core belief that the balance of decision-making power regarding the development of lands and waters should be held at the community level. Driven by the relationships he has forged working with Indigenous communities across Canada, Mark works to ensure that development reflects community values and benefit future generations. Mark is a member of the 2024 OAIA Conference Planning Committee and is a member on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

Sarah MacKinnon

Sarah MacKinnon, M.Sc.Pl., is an Environmental Planner at WSP. Sarah's experiences primarily focuses on applying environmental planning policies to transportation and infrastructure projects. Sarah received a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in Environmental Planning. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS) from Queen's University. Outside of work, Sarah enjoys being an active member of her community as the Communications Coordinator for the Women of Environmental Planning+ Network and an Executive Committee Member of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's Student Experience Program.



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BIOGRAPHIES

Katrina McCullough

Katrina McCullough is one of GHD's leading community engagement practitioners in Canada. She has dedicated the last 16 years to helping public and private sector organizations create lasting community benefit through meaningful stakeholder engagement. As a trained member of the International Association of Public Participation, Katrina has led community engagement programs for waste, wastewater, water, transportation and transit environmental assessments in Ontario and internationally.

Gregory McKenzie

Greg McKenzie is Principal at Blue Moth Creative, a Toronto-based creative agency that has provided services in web, admin, and visuals since their founding in 2012. Throughout his time in this role, he has worked for clients in a variety of sectors including political, radio, medical, naval, R&D, environmental, and logistics. Greg has been working with OAIA since 2016 as the Web Administrator and recently expanded his role to take on the position of Administrative Assistant while joining the 2024 Conference Planning Committee. Greg attended Wilfrid Laurier University where he received an Honours BA in Communications.

Mark McKnight

Mark McKnight is the Chief Information Officer at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). He has worked and consulted in municipal government and public sector services for over 25 years. Mark has implemented corporate systems and technology solutions in asset management, business intelligence, information and records management, user-friendly enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, and customer engagement. He is currently leading multiple digital transformation initiatives at TRCA. Mark holds degrees in business from Wilfrid Laurier University (BBA) and York University (MBA).

Sarah Merriam

Sarah Merriam, M.Sc, ESCP, ENV SP, is the Environmental Director for Parsons and a Senior Environmental Planner specializing in environmental management, construction monitoring and compliance, and wildlife mitigation and monitoring. She has worked for federal, provincial and municipal governments and has led complex multidisciplinary projects under the Class Environmental Assessment, Transit Project Assessment Process and Individual Environmental Assessments. Sarah is experienced securing permits and authorizations, including from Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and is able to obtain buy-in from various stakeholder groups on complex and sometimes controversial projects.

Claire O'Neill Sanger

Claire O'Neill Sanger is an acting Panel Management Analyst within the Review Panels Division at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and works on the nuclear project files. Claire has a multidisciplinary background and holds a Master of Science degree in environmental studies and climate change from Concordia University. She has previously worked in wildlife biology with the Canadian Wildlife Service and in climate change policy with Natural Resources Canada, as well as, in the private sector as an Environmental Assessment Planner.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jeremiah Pariag

Jeremiah Pariag is a Consultation and Engagement expert with 11 years of experience, having worked on over 200 projects across the transit, roads, water/wastewater, energy, and tech sectors. He has developed hundreds of public events, chaired Stakeholder Committees, and facilitated high-tension meetings for controversial projects. He has managed several engagement programs to mitigate project-related impacts. Additionally, Jeremiah is HDR's Indigenous Services Lead for Canada and an Instructor at Western University, where he teaches Environmental Planning and Management with an engagement lens.

Mina Patel




Mina Patel is a Lead Social Scientist with WSP Canada. Mina has more than 16 years experience working on projects primarily related to Indigenous engagement and assessing the social and economic impacts of development on Indigenous peoples.

Dilek Postacioglu


Dilek Postacioglu, Ph.D., is with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) since 2005. During her time at MECP, Dilek has been involved in several transformational projects undertaken by the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division including the modernization of approvals and the modernization of environmental assessment (EA) programs. Currently, Dilek is a Senior Project Manager with the EA Modernization Branch.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Kieran Potter

Kieran Potter is a nuclear engineer and impact assessment expert that leads a team of engineers and nuclear analysts in the conduct of environmental projects for Calian Nuclear, and works as a Technical Lead for Environmental Assessment and Environmental Risk Assessment projects. He has expertise Environmental Assessment, Safety Analysis, Environmental Protection Program design, among other technical disciplines. He has a Masters in Nuclear Engineer from the Royal Military College.

Chris Powell

Chris Powell is a Senior Environmental Planner and Stantec's Ontario's Technical Lead for Assessment & Permitting. Based in Waterloo, Chris has over 20 years of experience in environmental planning and is responsible for managing EAs and permit applications for transportation, mining, renewable energy, and watershed restoration projects. He brings a thorough understanding of the evolving policy framework in Canada and Ontario, with relevant experience under the Impact Assessment Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, and Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. Chris has testified before for the Ontario Municipal Board, Environmental Review Tribunal, and has supported clients through multiple Joint Review Panels.

Gary Pritchard

Gary Pritchard ~ Giniw (Golden Eagle), is a Conservation Ecologist & Indigenous Engagement/Placemaking Specialist from Curve Lake First Nation, Ontario. Gary has had the privilege to work on behalf of Indigenous peoples throughout Ontario and Canada. He has travelled and worked in almost 300 Indigenous communities throughout Canada and the northern United States. He has brought a wealth of knowledge to both his Indigenous and non-Indigenous cliental performing a wide variety of services including: Indigenous Community Planning, land-use/traditional knowledge studies, Indigenous lead conservation and restoration, Ecological Monitoring using Two-eyed Seeing, Indigenous Place-making, capacity building, expert testimony, mediation between western science and traditional science and subject matter expert on behalf of Indigenous communities.

Gary loves to connect and educate people through nature. He does this through several mediums. His favourite way is through his wildlife photography and storytelling. He believes that if individuals, especially youth, can form a connection with nature then all people can make conscious decisions on how we impact Mother Earth and the next seven generations. Gary likes to spend much of his free time educating the youth about "All Our Relations," with his most favourite students being his two children.

One of Gary's greatest strengths is that he is often able to be the one who acts as the bridge between the Indigenous Community and the western style of governance. Gary has successfully collaborated with many stakeholder groups, researchers, institutes, government agencies, Indigenous communities, and political organizations to address environmental concerns and identify practical solutions to environmental related issues. Gary is also a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

BIOGRAPHIES

Anjala Puvananathan

Anjala Puvananathan has spent her career in the federal civil service, working predominantly in policy and management positions in the areas of environment, labour markets, health and public health. She is currently the Director General, Regional Operations-East, with responsibilities for Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. She is also a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

Violetta Savage

Violetta Savage is a Senior Project Manager, Major Projects for the Transportation Services division at the City of Toronto and has over 17 years' experience working on public sector projects. With a background in project management, environmental planning and transportation, she has focused her career on planning, managing, and delivering multidisciplinary Environmental Assessments (Class and Individual EAs), public consultation and detailed design projects. Prior to joining the City of Toronto, Violetta held positions at Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Metrolinx. She holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in Zoology from the University of Guelph, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration from Niagara College. Violetta is a Director on the Board of OAIA, and the 2024 OAIA Conference Planning Committee Chair.



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BIOGRAPHIES

Neal Smith

Neal Smith, Certified Engineering Technologist (CET) is a Project Manager in the Region of Peel's Infrastructure Programming and Studies Team with over 25 years of combined professional experience in both the Municipal and Private Sectors primarily in transportation engineering and transportation planning, completing environmental assessments, feasibility studies and most recently regional road corridor studies. Prior consulting experience included preparation of project proposals, resource and time management, project scheduling and managing sub-consultants and ultimately detailed design, tendering and construction.

Callum Squires

Callum Squires is a Senior Environmental Assessment Specialist and Project Manager at WSP Canada Inc. Callum leads a broad and multi-disciplinary team of experts to prepare federal and provincial environmental impact assessments and permitting applications in Ontario. Callum has over 16 years of experience in the environmental field and brings that experience to provide solutions to his clients and to seek meaningful ways to engage and communicate with Indigenous communities and regulatory agencies.

Sabrina Stanlake-Wong

Sabrina Stanlake-Wong, a Registered Professional Planner (RPP), with Dillon Consulting Limited, has lead environmental assessments, environmental management, and municipal land use planning projects across Ontario for over 20 years. Most recently her work has focused on transit projects in the GTA. Sabrina enjoys large, multi-disciplined infrastructure projects which improve the health, wellness and long-term sustainability of communities. As a leader, her greatest joy is seeing each team member use their unique skills and abilities to collaboratively solve problems. She is also a Director on the Board of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA).

Marian Tibor-McMahon

Marian Tibor-McMahon is a Social Researcher and Engagement Specialist with over 15 years of experience. She has undertaken public and stakeholder engagement, Indigenous consultation, socio-economic surveys and studies, and environmental and socio-economic impact assessments for a variety of projects in the transportation, mining, and power sectors. She has a strong working knowledge and experience with community-based social research. She provides advisory services as well as communication and engagement design and implementation. Marian uses various engagement techniques through focus group sessions, stakeholder interviews, and public opinion surveys to better understand community interests and priorities as they relate to a project.

Faiza Waheed

Faiza Waheed is the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Team Lead and an Environmental Health Scientist at Intrinsic. She specializes in the use of the HIA framework as it applies to major infrastructure and resource development projects, as well as in conducting Gender-Based Analysis Plus. Faiza has co-authored guidance documents for Health Canada for federal Impact Assessment projects and also for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for assessing health impacts of major new projects. Faiza is a member of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Technical Advisory Committee and the co-chair of the Ontario Public Health Association's built environment and health working group.

BIOGRAPHIES

Kendra Warnock-Juteau

Kendra Warnock-Juteau is an Environmental Review Officer with the Environmental Review Division (ERD) of the Canadian Nuclear Safety (CNSC). ERD supports the CNSC's mission and mandate by providing regulatory leadership and expertise with regard to the conduct of environmental reviews and assessments. In addition, for environmental review processes, ERD may also be the point of contact with Indigenous Nations and communities, the public, and stakeholders.

Beth Williston

Beth Williston is the Associate Director of Infrastructure Planning and Permits with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). She has worked as an environmental planner with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for the past 33 years. She has worked as a conservation land management planner, watershed planner, and as a development review planner. Currently, at TRCA Beth establishes and manages partnerships with infrastructure builders from across the GTA and ensures her department provides streamlined review of projects and permits through the environmental assessment and TRCA regulatory review processes. Beth holds a degree in Geography, with a specialization in Urban Development from the University of Western Ontario. Beth is also President of the Ontario Association of Impact Assessment (OAlA).



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BIOGRAPHIES

Trennon Wint

Trennon Wint is a first year Master of Science in Planning (MScPl) student in the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. With a rich academic and professional background in ecology, geography, and public policy, his development as a researcher has been motivated by a deep interest in the ways that human communities interact with, and are affected by, the natural world around us. Under the supervision of Dr. Nicolas Brunet, Trennon's current work seeks to better inform climate change adaptation practices in the natural resource sector, with a particular focus on mining operations in a northern context. Further areas of interest for Trennon include community-oriented and equity-based planning, climate change adaptation, nature-based solutions, and urban ecology.

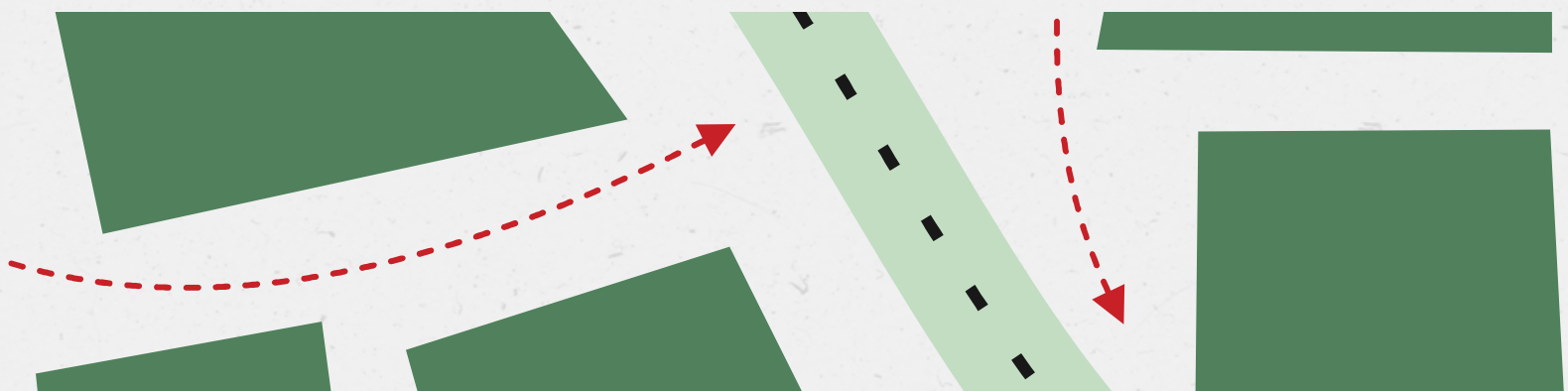
Trennon is the 2024 Ontario Impact Assessment Award and Student Bursary Recipient from the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA) for his paper entitled "Impacts of Today's Decisions in an Uncertain Tomorrow: A Review of Adaptation in the Mining Sector."

Jessica Wright

Jessica Wright is an accomplished associate, project manager, and environmental scientist at Dillon Consulting, with fourteen years of expertise in environmental sciences and Environmental Assessment. She delivers comprehensive environmental consulting services to both public and private sectors, facilitating municipal, provincial, and federal permitting, approvals, and compliance with legislative requirements. Jessica's extensive experience encompasses a wide range of projects, including linear infrastructure (such as trails, transmission lines, roads, and pipelines), greenfield development, bridges and culverts, and marine facilities, with a strong focus on assessing project impacts and implementing effective mitigation strategies.

Robert Young

Robert (Rob) Young leads Hatch's ISO 14001 Certified Environmental Management System that focuses on sustainability in Hatch's operations. He has over 30 years' experience serving resource, construction, and public sector clients. His experiences in environmental impact assessment, environmental due diligence assessments, compliance auditing, and environmental planning and environmental management and permitting on major infrastructure and energy construction projects span to Ontario, Nova Scotia, and the Arctic. Rob has completed environmental impact assessments for highway twinning; new highway projects; municipal roads; renewable energy projects; high-pressure steel gas pipelines; offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling and seismic programs; small craft harbours; and marine infill projects. Rob's international experience includes environmental due diligence assessments for project sites in the USA and Spain.





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