

# OAIA 2014

## Student Panel Session

**EIA in Aboriginal contexts  
Keys to success and potential  
innovations**

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# Research Context

- Doctoral Research
- Point about methodology
- Focus on the positive
- Still a work in progress!

# Research Questions

- What does an Indigenous-led EA look like?
- What are characteristics of successful EIAs in Aboriginal contexts?
- What would an Indigenous-*developed* EIA process look like?

# EIA is about balance...

- For communities - prosperity vs. Land stewardship
- For EA regulators - timing (process vs. promoter vs. Communities)
- For promoters – market price vs. SLO (social licence to operate)

Like any relationships, all parties expectations should be clearly stated early and often

# Keys to success *within* the process

- Clearly differentiating EIA participation processes from the *Duty to Consult*
- Flexibility of the process and parties involved
- Having the right people at the right place
- Compassion (yes, I know...)
- Timing
- Traditional Knowledge (TK)

# Keys to success *for* EIA

- A “worldview translator”: person, organization
- The use of technology: GIS, web-based tools...
- Training towards autonomy
- Stay away from the buzz words
- Community protocols for promoters
- Of the value of Diplomacy...

# What does an Aboriginal-led EIA look like?

- Magnatewan case highway 69
- Promoter (MTO): “Hands off”
- “Worldview translator” supporting the community and translating the results into a usable format for regulators (SVS)

# What would an Aboriginal-developed EIA look like?

- Turning the process on its head
- Promoter-driven to community-driven
- Based on communities needs (back to the balance...)
- From decision-aid to decision-making tool
- Prevalence of TK

Bi-partite Advisory boards are a good start  
(JBNQA, MVERB...)



# Thank you!

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