



Back to Basics: Creating Value through Environmental Assessment

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 and Thursday, October 20, 2022

York University, Convention Centre

15 Library Lane, Second Student Centre, 2nd Floor, North York, ON M3J 2S5

In Person with Options for Virtual Presentations as well as Participation

Our conference will be held in Toronto (Tkaronto), a gather 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 Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

For information on sponsorship opportunities, click [Sponsorship](#)

Join Us! Save the Dates – October 19th and 20th, 2022

A workshop or networking event will also be offered on October 18, 2022 at an additional cost.
Sneak Peak of Workshop: Ontario Land Tribunal and the Ramifications of Decisions that Intersect between Social Impact Assessment and Land Use Planning in Ontario.

We will be following public health measures and advice developed by the venue, the City of Toronto, and the Province of Ontario



Overview

This year's conference theme explores the value and importance of impact assessment in Ontario by exploring the fundamentals of good impact assessment practice. A diversity of perspectives, case studies and best practices will highlight how environmental assessment planning creates value for governments, proponents, regulators, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and the general public who are affected by project proposals. At this conference, presenters will contemplate how to get better decisions that minimize the risks with construction and operation; create more certainty for the future permitting and regulatory phase that follows; and how host communities of projects gain benefits (both financial and otherwise) than would otherwise not be achievable through a regulatory licensing approach. In other words, we will examine the costs and benefits of a well-conducted assessment process.

Topics Include

- ◆ Explore how efforts to modernize the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) in Ontario as well as the federal Impact Assessment Act promote environmental planning processes that in turn **create value for proponents**, the general public and other stakeholders, regulators and Indigenous Peoples
- ◆ Highlight case studies where technical studies as part of impact assessments contribute to broader **sustainability** such as **Corporate Social Responsibility** and the **Social License to Operate**. For example, how are social, health, and Indigenous-led assessments in Ontario contributing to broader objectives?
- ◆ Explore best practices and case studies for **stakeholder engagement**: How do we address misinformation in the context of EA? What role does joint fact-finding play in combatting misinformation and creating meaningful engagement?
- ◆ Explore how the identification and **evaluation of alternatives** contributes to corporate, political, and societal goals including the public interest, economic development, climate change, and sustainability.
- ◆ Explore how **Western science and Indigenous Knowledge Systems** are being used in impact assessment including to address alternatives assessment, **baseline data gathering**, and the **assessment of effects**.
- ◆ Explore how **adaptive management** is being used to manage the **uncertainty and lack of consensus** around the assessment of impacts. How can Indigenous communities, the general public, and stakeholders be engaged as adaptive management approaches are used to manage impacts post-approval?



- ◆ Explore how **cumulative effects, climate change, and sustainability** are being assessed. Highlight case studies that exemplify best practices for cumulative effects assessment and how climate change and sustainability are being addressed in projects in Ontario.

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 with the goal of improving impact assessment practice.

2022 OIA Conference Planning Committee

- ◆ **Cheryl Chetkiewicz:** WCS Canada (2022 OIA Conference Chair)
- ◆ **Anjala Puvananathan:** Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (2022 OIA Conference Co-Chair)
- ◆ **Anneliese Grieve:** Anneliese Grieve Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions
- ◆ **Beth Williston:** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- ◆ **Blair Shoniker:** GHD
- ◆ **Dorothy Moszynski:** Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- ◆ **Luis Orantes:** Parsons Corporation
- ◆ **Rebecca D’Onofrio:** Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- ◆ **Sandy Nairn:** HDR
- ◆ **Terri Rogers:** Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Northeastern Region
- ◆ **Sue Bilek:** OIA Administrator

2022 Speakers Gift

Every year, OIA makes a donation in lieu of speaker 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 of two organizations: [Feed it Forward](#) and [Indigenous Climate Action](#). Given our theme of Back to Basics, these two organizations are connected to vision with their focus on reducing waste, sustainability, food security, climate justice, and Indigenous rights. A \$250 donation was made to each organization on behalf of OIA. We encourage you to learn more about their important work. Previous recipients of the OIA speakers’ gift donation include [EcoSpark](#), [CAPE](#), [Tree Canada](#), [WaterFirst](#), and [Environment North](#).



Preliminary Program

| Item # | Time | Title | Abstract | Participants |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST: 8:00 am to 9:00 am (Virtual Presenters and Participants to Join by 8:45 am) | | | | |
| Day 1: October 19, 2022 | | | | |
| Session 1: 9:00 am to 10:45 am – How Does Assessment Add Value? | | | | |
| 1a | 9:00 am to 9:15 am 15 minutes | Opening Remarks | | Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cheryl Chetkiewicz, OIA President, 2022 OIA Conference Chair, and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada |
| 1b | 9:15 am to 10:45 am 90 minutes | Key Note Address followed by Energy and Sustainability Panel | <p>As the public policy landscape evolves, with a focus on meeting the energy requirements of an increasingly electricity dependent society, assessments play a role in both realizing projects in a timely manner and ensuring that projects that are not well designed are not developed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating Sustainable Design Alternatives in the Nuclear Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ With a significant portion of our energy supply relying on nuclear power generation, it is imperative that nuclear infrastructure is sustainably designed to withstand the impacts of climate change and protect the vital operations on which our communities and industries rely. The ITC Lake Erie Connector: How Good Environmental Assessment (EA) Process Resulted in a Little Known Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There are several positive impacts from a corporate, political, and societal perspective including economic and grid resiliency benefits and potential to reduce Ontario's GHG emissions by 2 to 3 million tonnes annually. The presentation will focus on the outcome of the assessment | Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cheryl Chetkiewicz, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Key Note Address (TBD) ◆ Kathleen Vukovics, Hatch Ltd.; Catalina Gonzalez, Hatch Ltd.; Mimi Ginger Wilde, Hatch Ltd. ◆ Ryan Doyle, HDR Inc.; Janine Ralph, HDR Inc. ◆ Giulia Cricenti, Graduate Student, University of Waterloo |

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| | | | <p>process, including the alternatives analysis.</p> <p>3. Sustainability-Based Guidance for Assessing Canadian Coal Phase-Out Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with the <i>Impact Assessment Act's</i> requirements for considering the extent to which a proposed project would “contribute to sustainability,” the proposed criteria integrate attention to the full suite of factors and interactions affecting potential contributions to sustainability, including matters related to just transition and ecological integrity. | |
| <p>BREAK – 10:45 am to 11:00 am</p> | | | | |
| <p>Session 2: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm – Modernization: Legislation and Development</p> | | | | |
| 2 | 11:00 am to 12:30 pm 90 minutes | Government update followed by updates on the Ring of Fire | <p>The ongoing efforts to modernize Ontario’s <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> is contrasted by ongoing project-level assessments in the Ring of Fire:</p> <p>1. Update on Modernizing Ontario’s <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview will be provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. <p>2. Indigenous-Driven Infrastructure Development: Insights from Proponent First Nations on Road Development in the Ring of Fire area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two northern Ontario First Nations, Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN), are leading the development of multiple road projects within the Ring of Fire area and their traditional territories as proponents. Insight will be provided into MFFN’s and WFN’s experiences as project proponents and what their status as proponents means for building capacities to facilitate their long-term visions for community development and self-determination. <p>3. Invitation to [Indigenous Women’s] Voices in Impact</p> | <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Government Update: Ontario Government Official (TBD) Michael Fox, Indigenous & Community Engagement (ICE) Inc.; Qasim Saddique, Suslop Inc. Alexandra Bridges, Keepers of the Circle Faiza Waheed, Affiliation: Intrinsik Corp |

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| | | | <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Invitation to Voices Project’s objective is to build Indigenous women’s capacity to participate in impact assessments (IAs) through a multi-phase research and training process. The presentation will highlight barriers that intersectional identities have historically faced while participating in IAs and identify strategies to ensure that the voices of Indigenous women and gender diverse people are intentionally and authentically included in such spaces moving forwards. <p>4. Health Impact Assessment in the Federal Impact Assessment Process: A Value Added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is an evidence-based systematic framework that uses a health lens to assess the potential positive and negative impacts of a project or policy on community health and the distribution of those impacts within the community. In federal assessments, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) provide a proponent with direction and requirements for the Impact Statement. The HIA process outlined in this presentation has been aligned to the IA process and uses terminology in keeping with the TISG. This presentation will also provide a high-level overview of the Webequie Supply Road Project HIA. | |
| <p>LUNCH – 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm</p> | | | | |

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| Session 3: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm – Socio-Economic Assessment | | | | |
| 3 | 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm 90 minutes | Collectively improving the discipline of socio-economic impact assessment | <p>Despite the broad definition of “environment” in Ontario’s <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, experiences with socio-economic assessment is a growing field that is rich in opportunities to add value to assessments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender in Sustainability Assessment: State of Practice and Future Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It is important to consider where gender considerations can most effectively be integrated into assessment processes. Five historic cases of best practice in Canada will be discussed: the Berger Report, the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project, the Lower Churchill Assessment, the Voisey’s Bay Mine, and the Whites Point Quarry Assessment. These cases all represent sustainability based, next generation assessment processes. The presentation will focus on how gender has and has not been included in best practice assessment, as well as potential methods of better including intersectional gender analysis into sustainability-based criteria for future application. 2. Collaborative Social Research: A Holistic Socio-Economic Study for the Webequie Supply Road Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This presentation will explore how the Webequie Supply Road Socio-economic Baseline Study contributes to the Webequie First Nation’s Social License to Operate. Through this study, the Project Team, in collaboration with Webequie First Nation, will investigate their community’s social and economic well-being. Through this Indigenous-led process the Baseline Study goes beyond typical Environmental Assessment requirements by integrating Indigenous Knowledge and an awareness of the colonial histories which have impacted the social and economic well-being of the community today. Theoretical frameworks such as Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) have informed the Baseline Study and will be explored in the presentation. 3. Challenging Epistemic Barriers to Collaborative Socio- | <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blair Shoniker, GHD <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cole Atlin, Calian Nuclear and University of Waterloo ◆ Marian Tibor-McMahon, Indigenous Communication and Engagement (ICE) ◆ Sarah Duignan, Wood PLC; Shaina Sehgal, Wood PLC; ◆ Leanna Augsten, Wood PLC; Nathan Snider, Wood PLC |

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| | | | <p>Economic Baseline Development: Engaging Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Socio-economic baseline data gathering poses epistemic and methodological challenges, as regulatory requirements and publicly available data can be fundamentally antithetical to Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Drawing on a combined 15 years of experience working with and learning from Indigenous Peoples in Canada and India, we offer insights on developing socio-economic baselines that reconcile differing worldviews. This supports clients in successfully representing holistic socio-economic and health baseline conditions, while protecting and sustaining the knowledge and practices of Indigenous Nations and Peoples. <p>4. Equity, Practicality and Inclusive Research: GBA+ Analysis in Socio-economic Baseline Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Requirements to interweave GBA Plus with socio-economic baseline gathering requires reframing so as to better identify the experiences of individuals within the study area based on their intersecting identities. This presentation questions how socio-economic baselines can incorporate GBA Plus while following sound methodological practices. | |
| BREAK – 3:00 pm to 3:15 pm | | | | |
| Session 4: 3:15 pm to 4:45 pm – Institutional Challenges and the Impacted Sectors | | | | |
| 4a | 3:15 pm to 4:45 pm 90 minutes | Does land use planning and environmental assessment intersect to add value in Ontario? | <p>How do environmental assessments resolve differing points of view transparently, fairly, and in an evidence-based manner?</p> <p>1. Landfill Planning in Ontario – the Past, the Present and the Likely Messy Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An overview of landfill EAs in the Province of Ontario will reflect on the past including pivotal Hearing decisions and attempts at the Willing Host Siting Approach. An overview of current challenges will include the demand | <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Anneliese Grieve, Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Presenters TBC |

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| | | | and the right provisions. An overview of the messy future will focus on limited landfill capacity and significant barriers to approving new landfills. | |
| 4b | 4:45 pm to 5:00 pm 15 minutes | Closing Remarks | | Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Beth Williston, 2022 OAIA Conference Planning Committee, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority |

SOCIAL EVENT: WALK TO BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE FOR NETWORKING, DRINKS AND NIBBLES

| Item # | Time | Title | Abstract | Participants |
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| Day 2: October 20, 2022 | | | | |
| REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST: 8:00 am to 9:00 am (Virtual Presenters and Participants to Join by 8:45 am) | | | | |
| Session 5 – 9:00 am to 10:45 am – Indigenous Assessment Processes | | | | |
| 5a | 9:00 am to 9:15 am 15 minutes | Opening Remarks | | Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cheryl Chetkiewicz, OAI A President, 2022 OAI A Conference Chair, and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada |
| 5b | 9:15 am to 10:45 am 90 minutes | Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin (law) in Treaty #3 Environmental Assessments | <p>This session will give an overview as to how the Territorial Planning Unit (TPU) of Grand Council Treaty #3 (T3) upholds Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin (law) throughout all environmental decisions. The presenters will look at both Manito Aki Inakonigaawin (Great Earth Law) and the Nibi (water) Declaration and how they are the foundation to a Treaty #3 Environmental Assessment. Through Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin, the TPU has developed a comprehensive Lands Managers toolkit that explores how Anishinaabe in Treaty #3 communities can work with Environmental Assessments, while ensuring all generations are included in environmental decision making.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of the Grand Council Treaty #3's mandate 2. Manito Aki Inakonigaawin significance and how it is applied to environmental assessments 3. Nibi (water) Declaration Significance and becoming Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin 4. Treaty #3 Lands Manager Toolkit (T3 EA and IA's) 5. Why youth are important to include in Environmental Assessment processes. | Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cheryl Chetkiewicz, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hailey Krolyk, Treaty #3 ◆ Hailey Krolyk, Treaty #3; Shy Cobiness, Treaty #3 ◆ Priscilla Simard, Treaty #3 ◆ Shy Cobiness, Treaty #3 ◆ Youth Representative, Treaty #3 |
| BREAK – 10:45 am to 11:00 am | | | | |

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| Session 6: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm – Next Generation of Assessment: New Tools or Old Standards | | | | |
| 6 | 3:15 pm TO 4:45 pm 90 minutes | Perspectives on the Future | <p>This panel sheds a spotlight on a mix of tools that have always been part of assessment processes, but need a revamp to add value and purpose.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A sustainability assessment framework to guide decision-making about rare earth element mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting global temperature increase to 2°C above preindustrial levels will require a swift transition to energy generation using renewable technologies. Unfortunately, these technologies require greater quantities of materials, such as rare earth elements (REE), that historically have involved socially and ecologically damaging extraction processes. This paper explores how Canada can use sustainability-based assessment to transform REE mining and help identify concerns, manage trade-offs, and deliver positive contributions to sustainability. An illustrative application of the specified framework is then presented through a review of the Nechalacho project in the Northwest Territories, Canada's first operational REE mine. Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment: Current Practice and Implications for Environmental Assessment, Sustainability and Cumulative Effects Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This presentation will highlight lessons learned and implications for environmental assessment from undertaking climate vulnerability and risk assessments on a variety of existing and new infrastructure projects as well as to natural assets in Ontario and in other parts of Canada. Examples will demonstrate application of the recently released PIEVC High Level Screening Guide (HLSG) with insights on how project sustainability has been enhanced and for how the PIEVC HLSG method may contribute to cumulative effects assessments going forward. | <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Harkness, Morrison Hershfield Limited <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eve McLeod Norberg, Graduate Student, University of Waterloo Andrew Harkness, Morrison Hershfield Guilhermo Lombardi Garbellini, 2022 OAIA STUDENT BURSARY RECIPIENT, University of Saskatchewan Sarah Merriam, Parsons Inc. / West Corridor Constructors |

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| | | | <p>3. Environmental Assessment as a Tool for Managing Impacts on Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Many jurisdictions in Canada use a hierarchical approach to mitigate wetland loss whereby loss is avoided, unavoidable loss is minimized, and any remaining loss is offset through compensation. Wetland offsets are a way of compensating for wetland losses, but are poorly understood or not always implemented. <p>4. Highway 401 Expansion: Erosion and Sediment Control Lessons Learned and Adaptive Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The project is within the Sixteen Mile Creek and Credit River Watersheds and includes more than 25 drainage/watercourse crossings, some with sensitive fisheries covered under provincial and federal legislation. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) design, implementation, and monitoring is a key component of the Project, involving extensive coordination between drainage designers, environmental planners, fisheries biologists, environmental inspectors, and the construction team. The presentation will highlight adaptive management as a means to manage uncertainty while involving Regulatory Agencies and key stakeholders during construction. | |
| <p>LUNCH – 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm</p> | | | | |
| <p>Networking Opportunity 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm <i>Interested conference attendees may also participate in a showing of a Virtual Book Launch¹</i></p> | | | | |
| <p>Session 7: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm – An Update from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</p> | | | | |

¹ Aimée Craft & Jill Blakley Launch of In Our Backyard (University of MB Press), with Robert Spence, uofmpress.ca

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| 7 | 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm 60 minutes | Impact Assessments: An Update from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada | <p>Overview from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on various initiatives that add value to participants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Practices in implementation of the UNDRIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This presentation will explore approaches in implementing the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the field of impact assessment. The Agency will overview work striving towards and securing consent, participation of Indigenous peoples in assessment and decision-making, and various collaborative arrangement with Indigenous communities. Impact Assessment Agency of Canada’s Approach for Involving Indigenous Groups and Others during the Post-Decision Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has developed an approach for engaging and funding involvement of Indigenous groups and stakeholders in all post-decision activities, such as follow-up monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of mitigation measures, including monitoring committees, as well as, compliance verification and enforcement activities. Advice and Guidance: The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada’s Work with Proponents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through case studies, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada will highlight advice and guidance that it provides proponents. Highlights will include work done during the pre-planning phase to inform the preparation of the Initial Project Description, work done in the planning phase to focus the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, and work done in the impact statement phase to guide the development of the Impact Statement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Hanna, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valancy Reynolds, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Paul Schafer, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Anjala Puvananathan, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada |
| BREAK – 3:00 pm to 3:15 pm | | | | |
| Session 8: 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm – Meaningfully Incorporating Varied Voices | | | | |

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| 8a | 11:00 am to 12:30 pm 90 minutes | Meaningful assessments involve resolving conflicting views | <p>This session explores how assessments have or could meaningfully incorporate different voices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indigenous Community Integration into the Marathon Palladium Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This presentation will explore the results of meaningful partnerships and opportunities for Indigenous community participation, ultimately leading to commitments for continued interactions throughout the life of the Marathon Palladium Project. Generation PGM Inc., the proponent, has developed meaningful partnerships with potentially impacted Indigenous groups to progress this Project through the Joint Review Panel process under CEEA, 2012 and Ontario's <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>. 2. Mediation and Impact Assessment: Revisiting Prospects for Sustainability Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The integration of mediation into IA has been cited as a potential element of next generation assessment, due to its focus on equitable decision-making. However with limited past experience, there is a lack of understanding. This presentation examines the potential of mediation in current IA context. The presentation will be anchored by some past case studies. 3. A Review of Misinformation Communicated by the General Public in Environmental Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This presentation explores outreach processes with the general public, including a sample of concerns identified by the general public, their relationships with the concerns identified, and their ability to make an informed decision. It also explores examples of misinformation that has been communicated between the general public as well as methods used to manage such misinformation. | <p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Nairn, HDR <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Powell, Stantec Consulting Ltd.; Jon Pounder, Stantec Consulting Ltd. Simon Popescu, student, Queen's University Marianne Alden, Parsons Inc. |
| 8b | 4:45 pm to 5:00 pm 15 minutes | Closing Remarks | | <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Chetkiewicz, OIA President, 2022 OIA Conference Chair, and Wildlife Conservation Society |



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