



# **Environmental & Social Assessment Forum: Event Summary**

February 23-24, 2016  
Cranbrook, British Columbia  
Canada

*Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology*

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This document is available as a free PDF download from the website of the Columbia Mountains Institute, at [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org) in the “Past Events” section. Look for the write-up for this conference, or click [here](#).

Pages have been left blank intentionally to allow for correct pagination when this document is printed in double-sided format.

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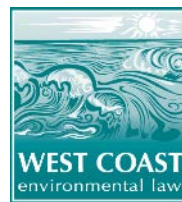
Website: [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org)

## *Acknowledgements*

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This forum was hosted by the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology, and took place in traditional Ktunaxa territory.

CMI is proud to have worked with [West Coast Environmental Law](#) and the College of the Rockies to offer this event. In addition, the College of Applied Biology, VAST Resource Solutions and the Firelight Group contributed financial and in-kind assistance in support of this conference:



Our presenters and the people who brought posters and displays travelled from various communities in British Columbia and Alberta. We are grateful for the willingness of all participants to share their expertise with us, and for the support of all agencies in sending people to this forum.

Special thanks go to our volunteers **Marcy Mahr** of EcoMosaic Environmental Consulting and **Kasia Kritowski**, and the conference committee members for their guidance and expertise in the development of this event.

We appreciate the work of our conference organizing committee, and others who contributed advice and expertise as the conference developed. The members of the organizing committee were:

- **Sarah Boyle**, Parks Canada
- **Jenny Feick**, Nature Wise Consulting (committee chair and event MC)
- **Anna Johnston**, Westcoast Environmental Law
- **Carrie Nadeau**, Associated Environmental
- **Kathy Rettie**, University of Calgary
- **Hailey Ross**, Columbia Mountains Institute
- **Sylvia Wood**, Columbia Mountains Institute

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## *Forum description*

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Assessment of potential environmental effects is part of the regulatory application process for a broad range of infrastructure, natural resource development, and other land-use projects. The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology organized this Forum to inform participants about recent changes in environmental assessment legislation, policy and process. The purpose of this forum was to provide attendees with practical “hands-on” experience and skills.

This two-day event featured seminars on how to work through federal and B.C. provincial environmental assessment processes for development proponents, First Nations, the general public and stakeholders engaged in the process. The forum included a keynote presentation on lessons learned from the Jumbo Ski Development environmental assessment process and a screening of the film “Jumbo Wild.” On day two, attendees learned about the social assessment process from a cultural perspective. A panel discussion explored ways to improve federal and B.C. provincial environmental assessment processes. Networking opportunities included a poster session featuring several different posters and commercial displays, refreshment breaks and Q & A sessions throughout the whole event. Lively discussions took place during the refreshment breaks

Our event included presentations from thirteen different speakers including a thought-provoking keynote address, and a very dynamic and informative panel discussion. In total, over sixty people attended this event . People from many disciplines participated, including: resource managers, members of public interest groups, consultants, researchers, industry representatives, and academics. Event evaluations indicated that participants found the event both enjoyable and useful.



**About the Columbia Mountains Institute  
of Applied Ecology**  
[www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org)

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) is a non-profit society based in Revelstoke, British Columbia. CMI is known for hosting balanced, science-driven events that bring together managers, researchers, educators, and natural resource practitioners from across southeastern British Columbia. CMI’s website includes conference summaries from all of our events, and other resources.

## *Seminar Presentations*

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The Environmental and Social Assessment Forum was a unique event that combined professional development seminars in a workshop format with other learning opportunities such as a keynote address, a panel discussion, and posters. Thus, CMI did not ask speakers to submit a written summary of their presentations, as we do for standard conference style presentations. However, did ask presenters to share their PowerPoint presentations used in their seminars, which contain many links and resources for more information relevant to the seminar topic. Some PowerPoint presentations would not make sense as stand-alone presentations, so, the speaker provided a description of the presentation .

The information presented in this document has not been peer reviewed.

Presentations listed here appear in the order in which they were presented. Presentation links are housed on the CMI website.

### ***The Past, Present, and Future of Environmental Assessment in Canada***

Martin Olszynski, University of Calgary

[Presentation link is here](#)

### ***Considering species at risk & migratory birds in environmental assessments***

Jennifer Huxter, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, and Rachel Mayberry, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada

[Presentation link is here](#)

### ***A Guide for Proponents to Federal Environmental Assessment Processes***

Marcus Eyre, National Energy Board

[Presentation link is here](#)

Regina Wright, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Presentation unavailable – a list of resources is provided [here](#)

***A Guide for First Nations, Stakeholders and the General Public on the BC Environmental Assessment Process***

Paul Craven, BC Environmental Assessment Office

[Presentation link is here](#)

***A Guide for Proponents to the BC Environmental Assessment Process***

Paul Craven BC Environmental Assessment Office

[Presentation link is here](#)

***Assessing Impacts to First Nations Interests when Performing an Environmental Assessment***

Nicole Kapell, Ktunaxa Lands and Resources

[Presentation link is here](#)

***A Guide for First Nations, Stakeholders and the General Public on the Federal Environmental Assessment Processes***

Elizabeth Kovics, Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada

[Presentation link is here](#)

Regina Wright, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Presentation unavailable – a list of resources is provided [here](#)

***Cumulative Effects in Secwépemcúl'ecw***

Barry Wilson, ALCES Group

[A recording of the presentation is here](#)

***Politics, Geography and Environmental Assessment: Reflections on the Struggle over the Jumbo Valley***

Dr. Cam Owens, University of Victoria and Cascadia Sustainability Field School Program

[A live recording of this keynote address is available here](#)



## *Cultural Assessment from a Social Perspective*

Kathy Porter, Collaborative Global Initiative

[Presentation link is here](#)

### *Presentation summary:*

The Environmental Impact Assessment process continues to evolve. Nonetheless, the potential impact of a project on the social dimensions of communities are not often considered. Although there are both qualitative and quantitative methods to identify social impact, quantitative methods pre-dominate. Traditional use areas may be identified and structures or locations of cultural significance marked. Social impacts are often positioned in terms of the economy; the number of jobs, the business services that will be needed to support a project. The broader impacts on community are not included. For example, the in-migration of people from different cultures can significantly change the way a community views itself. A social impact assessment considers how communities might be changed as a result of changes to the economy and the social fabric of people's home and place on the land.

A social impact assessment is of even greater importance in Aboriginal communities. The ability to identify and express indigenous rights and rights of self-determination as agreed to by the international community at the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is an important framework that can focus attention on the potential for loss of language and culture.

Social assessment processes began to appear in environmental assessment processes in the 1970's. The Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines Principles for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) <sup>1</sup> developed a set of guiding principles to guide the social impact assessment process. A summary of these principles include the following:

Participatory - includes those affected by the project

- In the assessment process and
- In the decisions of connectedness to natural and physical surroundings

Integrated – considers the key components of sustainable community and cumulative impacts

- Economic
- Environmental
- Cultural
- Governance

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<sup>1</sup>Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, The Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, May 1994. Viewed at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/social\\_impact\\_guide.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/social_impact_guide.htm)

Relational – considers how human beings relate to one another and the community within which they reside

- Social values
- Cultural traditions and histories
- Wealth
- Well-being
- Bio-physical surroundings

Cultural impact assessment methods tend to be quantitative and the data may miss the relational and local knowledge that can only be gathered through direct contact. Social impact assessments tend to be qualitative. Stories and other forms of narrative can inform and support the principles as outlined above. Key aspects of narrative include:

- The story changes with the telling and the receiving.
- The ‘data’ is qualitative and quantifiable.
- The process is the means to discover how best to integrate tacit and implicit ways of knowing with the explicit.

As the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations continue to evolve the long term impacts can be identified and mitigation plans put in place well before the project begins. Indigenous leaders and community advocates are playing an increasingly pro-active role in the assessment process leading to the recognition of broader social impacts.

**A Ktunaxa Approach to Cultural and Environmental Impact Assessment** by Don Sam, Director of Ktunaxa Language and Carolyn Whittaker, Firelight Group  
No summary provided.

### **Resources List provided by Regina Wright, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

1. Basics of environmental assessment: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=B053F859-1>
2. Public registry of projects undergoing federal environmental assessment across Canada (it has a listing and a map view): <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/index-eng.cfm>
3. Public consultation on Canada’s approach to climate change: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action.html>

## *Panel Discussion – Contact Information & Bios*

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An interdisciplinary panel responded to three questions, which they received in advance, as well as questions from the floor. The questions asked were as follows:

1. What aspect of a current EA process would you retain and why?
2. From your perspective, what are two things about a current EA process that need to change and why?
3. How best can the current process gain/maintain public trust and ensure meaningful participation in the process?

The panellists were:

### **Hannah Askew**

West Coast Environmental Law

[Hannah\\_Askew@wcel.org](mailto:Hannah_Askew@wcel.org)

Hannah Askew is a part of West Coast Environmental Law's Aboriginal and Natural Resources Law team. She is passionate about working at the intersection of Indigenous law and environmental governance. Prior to joining West Coast, Hannah produced legal syntheses on Coast Salish and Anishinabek law for the Indigenous Law Research Unit. Hannah graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School and articulated with Crown Law Office-Criminal where she participated in the Implementation Committee to address the recommendations of the Honourable Frank Iacobucci in his report on First Nations Representation on Ontario Juries. Hannah's roots are in BC where her family has lived on Okanagan, Secwepemc and Coast Salish territory for several generations.

### **Bruce Fraser**

Regional District Director Shawnigan Lake, and former Chair of the Forest Practices Board

[fraser@islandnet.com](mailto:fraser@islandnet.com)

Dr. Bruce Fraser, Phd, is an ecologist by training and has worked extensively as an educator, government official, and consultant on issues from land use planning to community economic development and environmental conflict resolution in rural communities throughout British Columbia. His international development work in education and environment has taken him to countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and the Caribbean. He is a past president of both Selkirk College in Castlegar and Malaspina College in Nanaimo. He spent five years with the provincial government as Executive Director of Post Secondary Education, responsible for development of programs in the community colleges and institutes of the province. As Special Consultant on Public Involvement for the BC Forest Service he developed public

involvement programs dealing with forest practice issues throughout the province, from Creston watershed to the islands of Haida Gwaii. He chaired the Forest Practices Board of British Columbia and has volunteered with the CVRD Environment Commission and the Cowichan Watershed Board. Most Recently Bruce has been the Shawnigan Lake Director on the Cowichan Valley Regional district and has been spear heading multiparty collaboration for watershed planning and working to establish the Shawnigan Basin Authority in Shawnigan Lake.

### **George Hegmann**

Environmental Assessment Consultant, Stantec

[george.hegmann@stantec.com](mailto:george.hegmann@stantec.com)

George Hegmann, M.E.Des., P. Eng., is a Senior Principal in Environmental Services, Stantec, Calgary, Alberta. He also is a Discipline Leader as a member of the leadership for that office. His technical specialty is environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for major resource and infrastructure project regulatory applications under provincial, territorial, federal and joint review. Following 10 years focused on energy conservation and technical writing, he has the last 20 years provided EIA project management, technical and regulatory services, predominantly for energy projects (conventional oil and gas, oil sands, upgraders, pipelines, electric transmission lines, hydroelectric, wind, solar). His geographic focus is western (Alberta and British Columbia) and northern (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut) Canada. He also has provided advice, guidance and training to federal, provincial and territorial governments and boards on project and regional cumulative effects assessments (CEAs).

### **Nicole Kapell**

Kakitwiçkit ʔamakʔis ɓapi qapsinç pikaknik qapsinʔis (job title in the Ktunaxa Language)

Environment and Archaeological Stewardship Manager

Ktunaxa Nation Council, Cranbrook, British Columbia

[NJKapell@ktunaxa.org](mailto:NJKapell@ktunaxa.org)

Nicole joined the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) in 2010 and currently manages KNC engagement in major environmental and archaeological assessment projects within the Ktunaxa Territory. In this capacity, Nicole has overseen KNC participation in both federal and provincial environmental assessment process, including co-developing a methodology for more meaningful interaction between the Ktunaxa Nation, other government agencies and proponents through the EA process within Ktunaxa Territory.

## **David Savage**

David is founder and President of Savage Management Ltd., Think Sustain Ability Consultants and The Collaborative Global Initiative.

[dave@savagemanage.com](mailto:dave@savagemanage.com)

David is cofounder of the Company to Company Dispute Resolution Council (2003, [www.c2cadr.org](http://www.c2cadr.org)), the Alberta Energy Regulator Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (1999), the Global Negotiation Insight Institute (2008) and Synergy Alberta (2004, [www.synergyalberta.ca](http://www.synergyalberta.ca)). After a successful thirty-two-year career as a leader in the Canadian petroleum industry, since 2007 David has focussed on engaging and developing collaborative leaders and sustainable business development. David is past Chair of the Rosen Lake Ratepayers Association and has been very involved in bringing together diverse interests to focus on collaborative agreements on lakeshore and lake environmental protection that, also, respects the diversity of interest groups. The Columbia Valley Recreation Advisory Committee, facilitated by David, brought together conflicting interests to make recommendations to the governmental authorities on land use policy.

David is currently focused on his work with The Collaborative Global Initiative (founded in 2013), a global community of collaborative and dispute resolution professionals, located in Canada, the United States, and the Netherlands. CGI is committed to addressing and embracing conflict, and supporting a more peaceable, healthy and sustainable living environment in families, communities, business and our world. Think Sustain Ability assists companies build their culture to serve our future. David brings 40 years of professional negotiation and agreement building expertise, 30 years of facilitation and 20 years of alternative dispute resolution experience. He is committed to building capacity for parties to negotiate, collaborate and reach agreements that serve the business, the community and the environment.

## **Martin Olszynski**

University of Calgary – Faculty of Law

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Martin obtained his science (biology) and law degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and his master of laws from the University of California at Berkeley. Martin joined the Faculty of Law at University of Calgary on July 1, 2013, following several years of public service in environmental and natural resources law and policy. From 2007 to 2013, he was counsel with the federal Department of Justice, practicing law in the legal services unit at Fisheries and Oceans Canada. During this period, he also spent time on secondment to the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Division at

Environment Canada. Martin's primary teaching and research interests are in environmental, natural resources, and water law and policy.

**Carolyn Whittaker**

Firelight Group Research Cooperative

[carolyn.whittaker@thefirelightgroup.com](mailto:carolyn.whittaker@thefirelightgroup.com)

Carolyn is a Founding Director of the Firelight Group Research Cooperative and currently leads the Firelight Group Ecology Research Area. Carolyn's research with the Firelight Group focuses on three key areas: traditional ecological knowledge studies of culturally important species and species at risk; community-based planning; and the development of community-based monitoring programs. Much of our work also supports community-based regulatory review where we review proposed project application for communities compiling teams of highly qualified technical experts to ensure that community interests are protected. Carolyn also leads an ecology team facilitating pre-application assessment of environmental impacts on aboriginal rights and interests. Carolyn's recent work includes development of management recommendations for species at risk such as moose, bison and caribou in Canada and drafting environmental assessment applications for coal mine impacts on Ktunaxa Nation rights and interests in Southern B.C. Current work includes developing monitoring systems and protocols for a community-based caribou monitoring program in Ontario and for culturally important ecosystems and plants in the East Kootenays of B.C.

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## *List of Posters & Displays*

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1. **Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment of Multiple Hydroelectric Developments in Northern Manitoba**, Annette Luttermann, Pimicikamak Okimawin
2. **Ktunaxa Nation Council Environmental Assessment Engagement Methodology**, Nicole Kapell, Ktunaxa Nation Council
3. **Elko Dam Redevelopment, an example of the Development Plan Process Under the Clean Energy Act**, Darryl Arsenault, Golder Associates Ltd.
4. **Break Through to Yes**, Display, David Savage, Collaborative Global Initiative
5. **Vast Resources**, Display, Leigh Anne Isaac
6. **College of Applied Biology**, Display, Rebecca Mersereau
7. **McElhanney**, Display, Kasia Kritowska