

NOTES FOR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

OAIA AGM 2001-04-12

Some Perspectives on IA – in Ontario'

I: A Brief History

EA began ~ 3 + decades ago (US Congress: NEPA)
IAIA began ~ 2 decades ago
OAIA began ~ 1 decade ago

So, depending upon your perspective, we are approaching early middle age (as a discipline) or puberty (in Ontario).

II: IA in Ontario

Spotted past and checkered history
Some would say bloated and overblown, perhaps a decade ago
'Crashed' dramatically, esp with IWA (Interim Waste Authority)
Perhaps, in doldrums last few years
Now, relatively new Act in Ontario, seeking its feet and its place

III: IA in Canada

Just completed its 1st 5 years as an "Act"
Although been around in other forms (Cabinet Directive, etc) much longer
We will hear tonight about how it is to be revised and updated

IV: IA and Us – the Future

At IAIA '00: relatively pessimistic (after 30 years, little to show)
Issues have not gone away (climate change; global fisheries collapse; pollution of air and water; impending shortages of water, etc – we all know the litany)
Globalization debate 'ups the ante,' too (Quebec City)
These are all IA issues, and we can help
We have learned a lot –we can do IAs now, efficiently and effectively
We struggle still with some others (cumulative effects, strategic, policy, 'big picture'), but still making progress

V: OAIA

“ A Meeting Place for People who care about Impact Assessment –
and its Future – in Ontario

Excitement and interest is building

Recent activities

Letter to Ministers

Interest in Traditional Knowledge, Aboriginal Knowledge and IA

Links with partners both in other areas (AQEI) and here in

Ontario and globally (IAIA)

New Board, new vistas, new interest

Come, join with us... at

The Meeting Place for Those who care about Impact Assessment – and its
Future – in Ontario

Thank you