

Chiefs of Ontario Environmental Assessment Toolkit



Kathleen Padulo, Lillian Trapper, Ryan Bowie

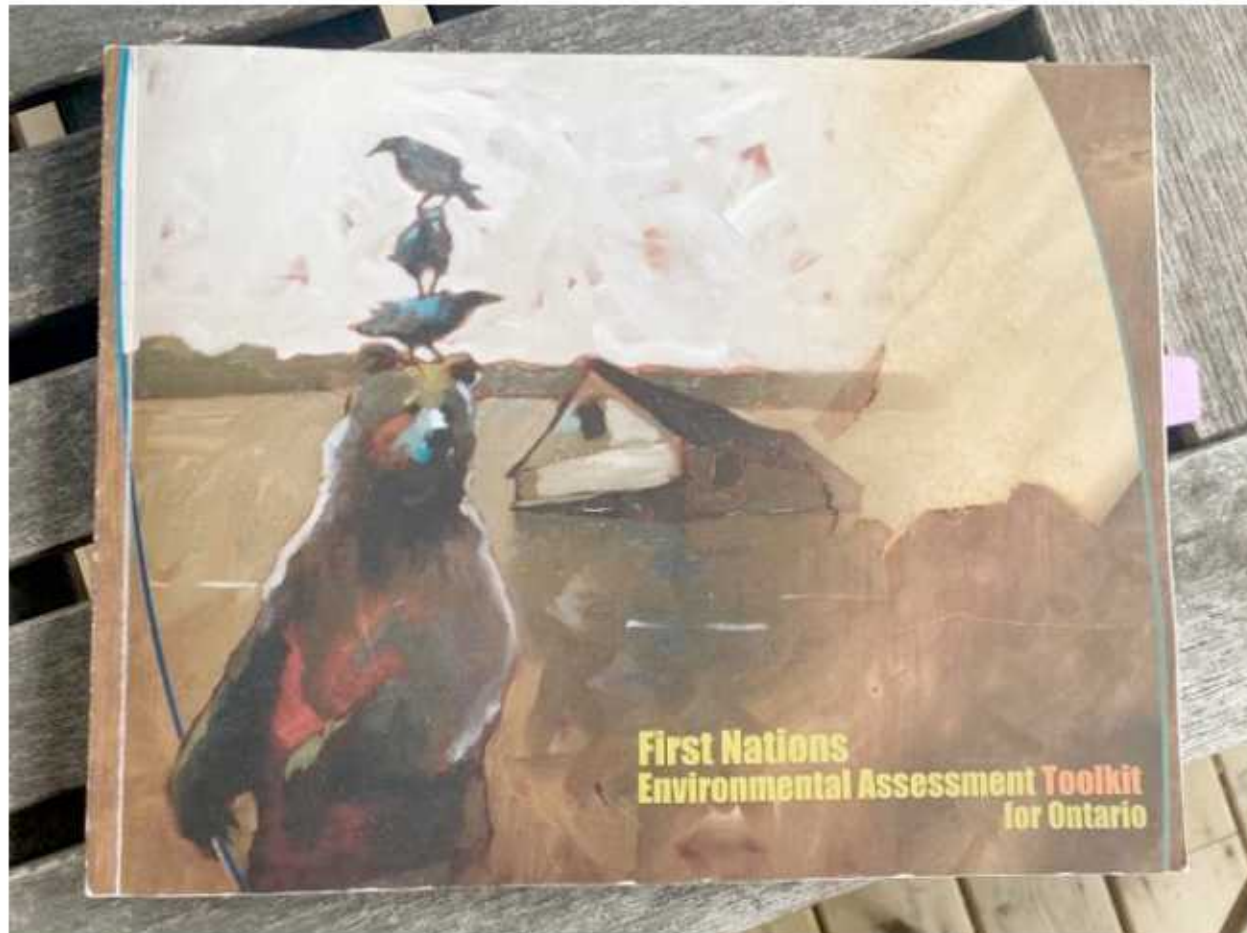
*Chiefs of Ontario
Canada*

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<https://chiefs-of-ontario.org>



Welcome to the 2024 Edition of the First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit



Wachiya

Shek:oli

She:kon

Greetings



History of Indigenous People on Turtle Island: Since Time Immemorial



Source: <https://warriorpublications.wordpress.com/2017/11/02/turtle-island/>

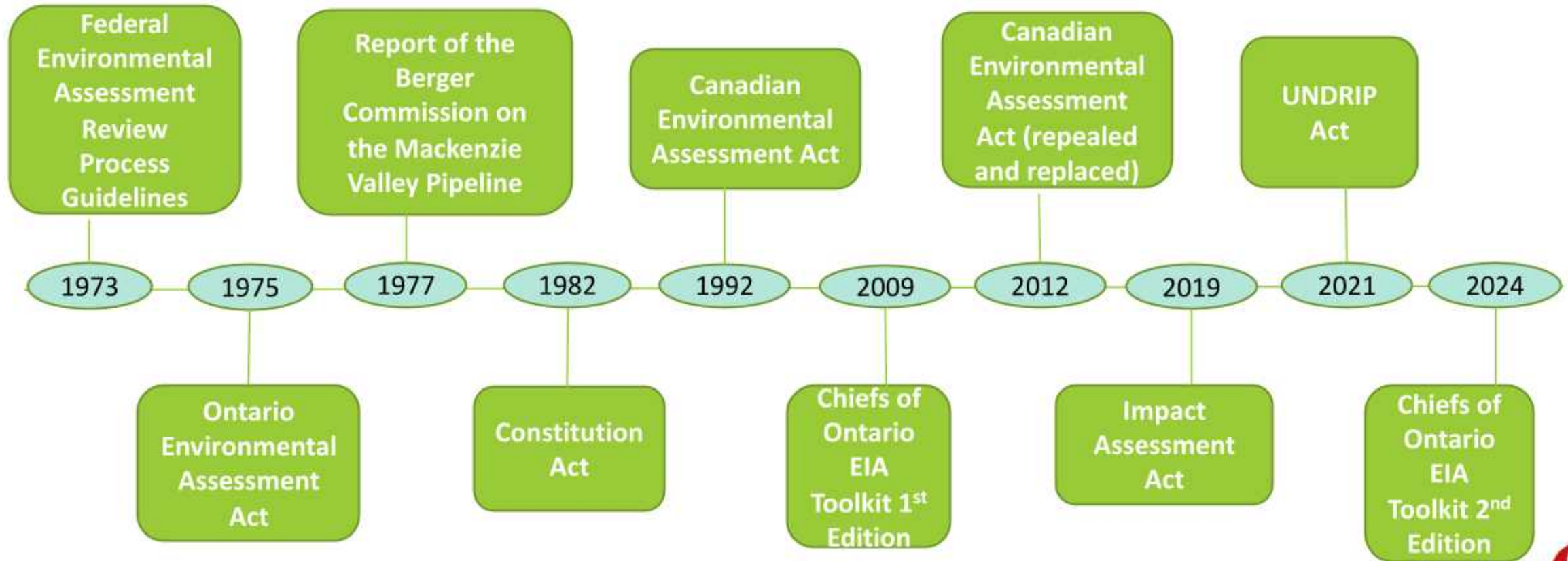
- The concept of environmental assessments is **not new** or foreign to us
- Indigenous governance systems
- Natural laws and customary laws
- Only take what you need = **conservation**
- Don't not disturb/change = **preservation**
- Occupancy of territories = “use of lands, water and resources”



The photos on this slide were graciously provided by the Beewahgihmow Society. Due to their personal nature, they are not for sharing and have been removed from this public document. Thank you for your understanding.



Milestones for Environmental Assessment in Canada: 50 years



First Nations EIA Toolkit & Current Edition

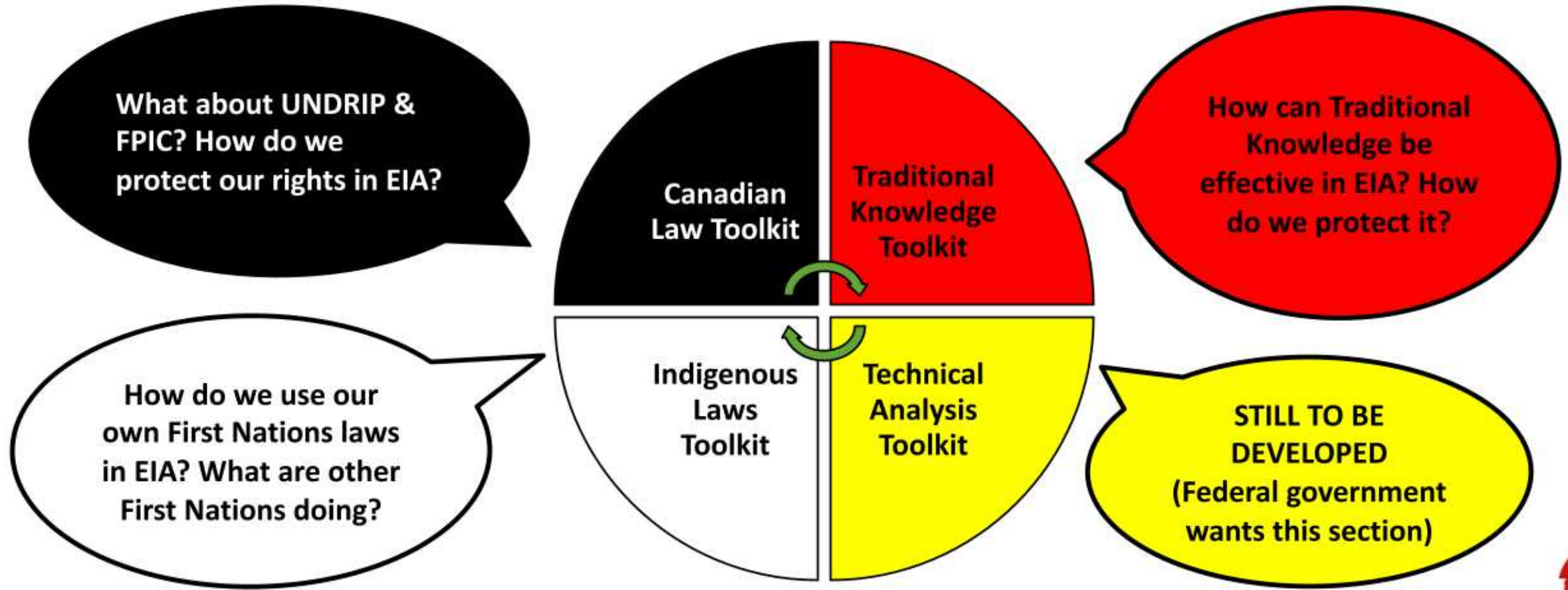


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Oneida Nation in proximity to Green Lane Landfill



Environmental Impact Assessment Toolkit for First Nations in Ontario



Canadian Legal System Toolkit

Provides guidance for navigating the challenges of the EIA process and making the most of the opportunities

Section 1 – Getting to Consent: UNDRIP, Inherent Jurisdiction and Impact Benefit Agreements

Section 2 – Duty to Consult and Accommodate

Section 3 – Advancing Indigenous Jurisdiction by Participating in EIAs



Traditional Knowledge Module: 3 Parts



Source: Beewahgihmow Society

1. Considerations in Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Assessments
2. Conducting an Indigenous study for the purposes of Environmental Assessments
3. Developing your own Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge protocol

“The ideal situation is you **govern your own knowledge and decide** what traditional knowledge you wish to share under what circumstances.”



Indigenous Laws and EIA Toolkit

A Participatory Method for Revitalizing Laws



What is your First Nation's goal?

- Write down your laws to give to others?
- Create a Land Code?
- Develop a Consultation Protocol?



Gather your sources

- Where can you find info about Oral History, land-based learnings and other teachings?
- E.g., interview Elders, find historical records, transcripts from court claims



Analyse your sources to understand the legal principles

- What legal principles are in the information you collected?
- E.g., what do the oral histories and stories tell you about how to care for the environmental or how to interact with others?



Gather the legal principles and create a framework

- Develop a clear framework keeping in mind your goal. Clearly state the legal principles so that they can be asserted and enforced
- E.g., draft your law, Land Code, or protocol



Report back to your First Nation

- Take the framework back to your First Nation for comment and feedback.
- E.g., hold workshops, host engagement sessions



Revise the framework and report back

- Incorporate feedback and comments and report back to your First Nation

Source: Chiefs of Ontario Environmental Impact Assessment Toolkit, 2nd Edition

IONWA'NIKONRI:IO "WE ALL HAVE A GOOD MIND"



Source: Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environment Program



Kehnahnaskomindinaw Nia:wen Yaw:ko



We are thankful to the following contributors to the COO EIA Toolkit:

- Dr. Deborah McGregor, Whitefish River First Nation
- Cathy Guirguis, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP
- Stephanie Allen, Six Nations of the Grand River
- Members of our First Nations Review Committee

We are grateful to our sponsors Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

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Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



#iaia24

Kathleen Padulo

*Director of Environment, Chiefs of Ontario
Canada*

Kathleen.Padulo@coo.org; Lillian.Trapper@coo.org; Ryan.Bowie@coo.org

Socials: @ChiefsOfOntario

<https://chiefs-of-ontario.org>