



IAIA26
QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA

Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, & Impact Assessment

45th Annual Conference of the
International Association for Impact Assessment

19-22 May 2026

Québec City Convention Centre
Québec City, Canada

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Abstract deadline: 30 October 2025

IAIA
International Association
for Impact Assessment

Hosted by
AQEI
ASSOCIATION
QUÉBÉCOISE
POUR L'ÉVALUATION
D'IMPACTS

Why attend IAIA26?

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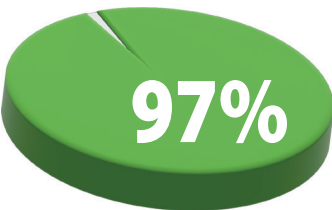
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IAIA26 is an **in-person** conference.

Live or recorded virtual participation is not available for this event.

Why should I attend IAIA26 in Québec City?

What % of IAIA25 delegates would recommend future IAIA conferences to colleagues?



- Our delegates tell us it is because they can
- **Learn best practices** from other countries that they can apply in their own situations.
 - **Network** with people who work in similar situations around the world.
 - **Share experiences** with an international audience.

Where else can you gather to hear perspectives in impact assessment from around the world—all in one place? Be prepared for some out-of-the-box thinking, applying solutions developed across the world to your little corner of it.

How will I benefit?

Come to Québec City to:

- Connect with people—at the conference AND afterward
- Get new information and techniques to use at work
- Help your colleagues and stakeholders



What IAIA25 delegates told us:

- 95%** met at least one person they planned to contact after the event for work-related purposes
- 86%** acquired significant new information, knowledge, and/or techniques applicable to their work
- 94%** shared information obtained at IAIA25 with colleagues and/or stakeholders

Will it be worth it?

What sets IAIA conferences apart from other conferences? You will find:

- **International diversity** of participants
- **Mix of sectors:** academics, consultants, industry, donors, and government
- **Inter-disciplinary** representation of various fields like health, social, environment, etc.
- **Access to experts** in the field of impact assessment

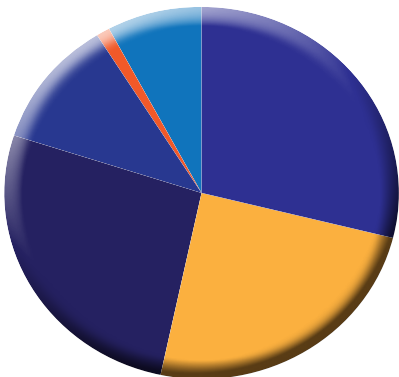
Be part of the only international interdisciplinary conference dedicated to the art and science of impact assessment...*the only one.*

Who will be there?

One of the strengths of IAIA conferences is its diversity of participants.

For more details on who attends IAIA conferences, visit <https://2026.iaia.org/who-attends-iaia-conferences>.

- CSO/NGO 7%
- Other 1%
- Industry 10%
- Education/Research 24%
- Government 22%
- Consultants 26%



Justify your attendance

Seeking approval to attend IAIA26? Check out the justification toolkit at <https://2026.iaia.org/justify-your-attendance> for help selling your participation to your employer. Resources include a sample attendance justification letter and cost worksheet.

Invitation to attend



Lone Kørnøv
President, IAIA
Aalborg University
Denmark

Welcome to IAIA26 in inspiring Québec City, Canada. I am honored to welcome you to this conference dedicated to shaping a more responsible future.

Our theme, “Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, & Impact Assessment,” is more than a discussion—it’s a call to action. Building upon last year’s exploration of digitalization and AI, we now turn our attention to a related challenge: understanding and addressing the spread of information disorder, which has far-reaching consequences affecting governance and our ability to address critical issues like climate change.

This conference is our opportunity to proactively address this challenge within the context of impact assessment. How can we ensure our work is grounded in verifiable facts, effectively communicated, and resilient to distortion in an increasingly digital world? How can we help decision makers and communities navigate the complex information landscape?

By sharing knowledge, building collaborations across disciplines, and embracing innovative approaches, we can strengthen the role of impact assessment as a force for clarity, transparency, and positive change.

Let us leave Québec City committed to action, ensuring impact assessment remains a vital tool for responsible decisions and a future where facts and trust thrive. I wish you an impactful conference.



Jean Hébert
IAIA26 Conference Co-chair
Managing Director, Association québécoise
pour l’évaluation d’impacts
Canada

We are very delighted to invite you to the IAIA 2026 Annual Conference, taking place in historic and vibrant Québec City, Canada.

This year’s theme, “Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, & Impact Assessment,” is a call for reflection and action for those who believe that facts matter, that communities deserve to be heard, and that decisions must be made transparently based on scientific knowledge and public involvement. This conference addresses one of the most pressing challenges facing our field today: how to ensure credible, transparent, and inclusive communication in an era of information saturation and distortion where facts sometimes compete with fiction.

In a time when truth is fragile, often contested and trust is hard-earned, the work of impact assessment professionals has never been more vital. At IAIA26, we gather not just to share knowledge, but to reaffirm our commitment to clarity, inclusion, and integrity. As impact assessment professionals, we rely on data, dialogue, and trust to inform decisions that shape communities and ecosystems. Yet, misinformation and disinformation—whether intentional or accidental—can undermine public confidence, distort policy outcomes, and marginalize key voices. IAIA26 will explore how we can strengthen our communication strategies, build resilience against false narratives, and foster meaningful engagement across diverse stakeholder groups.

Whether you’re a long time practitioner or a newcomer to the field, IAIA26 is your opportunity to be part of a transformative conversation. Let’s work together to elevate the integrity and impact of our assessments and to integrate the newest innovations into our practice. Through inspiring training courses, technical site visits, keynote speakers, panels, hands-on workshops, and exciting networking events, IAIA26 will empower us to rethink how we communicate, share, engage, influence, and lead for a more sustainable world. Canada and Québec are in the forefront of many interesting new regulations and practices in impact assessment.

Bienvenue à Québec! Let’s speak truth, build trust, and shape the future—together.



Annie Prince
IAIA26 Conference Co-chair
President, Association québécoise
pour l’évaluation d’impacts
Canada

Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, & Impact Assessment



In recent times, public trust in governments, the media, and information has significantly eroded, leading to increased societal polarization. When emotions, ideologies, and a lack of transparency overshadow scientific facts, environmental assessment faces serious challenges.

Environmental assessment practitioners and decision makers use rigorous, fact-based scientific methods and rely on the participation of citizens to minimize project impacts while engaging with communities. Addressing their concerns and perceptions is crucial.

We recognize that environmental assessment is complex and that we need to enhance communication with the public, policymakers, and the media in order to combat misinformation and disinformation. This conference will explore key thematic streams:

- » **Communication and reporting to improve transparency:** What strategies can we use to communicate complex data in a way to help communities and stakeholders better understand and build trust?
- » **Inclusive public engagement:** What are the best practices for co-constructing projects with stakeholders, including Indigenous communities, and for managing emotionally charged issues?
- » **Enhancing environmental science and regulatory literacy:** Impact assessments contain a lot of complex information – how do we help stakeholders better understand environmental science and regulations?
- » **Digital and interactive impact studies:** What digital tools can we use to continuously monitor impact assessments and communicate progress?
- » **Professional recognition and certification systems:** How can these credibility tools be used to instill confidence in stakeholders and establish trust?
- » **Stopping the spread of false information:** When misinformation and disinformation emerge and ideologies take over, how do we address it and mitigate the damage it causes?

In addition, there will be streams for IAIA's special-interest Sections: Academia; Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; AI & Emerging Technology; Biodiversity and Ecology; Climate Change; Cultural Heritage; Cumulative Effects; Disasters and Conflict; Governance and Implementation Systems; Health; Indigenous Peoples; Public Participation; and Social Impact Assessment.

ABOUT SESSIONS

A session is a 90-minute block of time during which discussion centers on a particular topic. Sessions may utilize a variety of formats, and the length of time available for presentations or speakers depends on the format that has been selected by the session chair. Session formats include:

Game-Gaming (G): Plan and play a strategy game where players have to navigate real-life policies and goals affecting impact assessment professionals. This activity-based session format is highly interactive and encourages communication, networking, and team building.

Panel discussion (PD): Each speaker gives a brief (5 minutes) prepared presentation, usually presenting a different view or experience on the topic, followed by discussion between the speakers and then questions from the audience facilitated by the chair.

Paper session (PS): In a paper session, authors orally present the findings of a prepared paper or project. A paper session typically allows 4-5 presentations of 15-20 minutes each, including time for audience questions. Ideally, the chair allocates time for general questions and open discussion following the presentations.

Pecha Kucha (PK): Pecha Kucha is a presentation methodology in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each (six minutes and 40 seconds in total). This format allows for concise and fast presentations with more than typical discussion time following the presentation.

Solution room (S): Designed to provide peer-supported advice on individuals' most pressing problems, each speaker presents a challenge they are facing. Participants then divide into small groups of 8-10 individuals. Each speaker presents their problem to a small group and has it brainstormed by the group in 7-minute cycles. At the end of a cycle, the participants move on to the next table and the speaker talks to a different group. Groups share tables with paper that they can write on to gather solutions to the problems.

Workshop (W): In a workshop, the topic is very specific and usually seeks to resolve a defined problem, often through a combination of 2-3 short paper presentations and active discussion.

World Café (WC): The World Café format is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. The process begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 8-10 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a question. At the end of each 15-20-minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the "table host" for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.

Abstract submission

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

30 OCTOBER 2025

PRESENTING AUTHOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE

28 JANUARY 2026

LANGUAGE

ENGLISH

Submitting paper and poster abstracts

PAPERS

- Read the session descriptions (<https://2026.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/>) and decide which session best fits your paper. Note that you may contribute only to sessions identified as "Open" unless you have been invited by a session chair to an "Invitation Only" session. If you have been invited to an "Invitation Only" session, the chair will contact you with instructions.
- Read the submission guidelines and policies (<https://2026.iaia.org/guidelines-and-policies-for-presenting-authors/>). Check the box at the bottom of the page and then complete the submission form.

POSTERS

- Read the submission guidelines and policies (<https://2026.iaia.org/guidelines-and-policies-for-presenting-authors/>). Check the box at the bottom of the page and proceed to the submission form. At the top of the submission form, click "I want to submit a poster abstract." and then complete the poster form.

ABOUT POSTERS

Posters are a creative and popular alternative to the oral presentation of a paper. In a poster session, there is no formal oral presentation; instead, each author is assigned a display area on which diagrams, graphics, data, pictures/photos, and a small amount of text are presented. The poster should be self-explanatory, but the author should be available at certain times, such as refreshment breaks and during the dedicated poster session, to interact with viewers and answer questions.

Guidelines for poster presenters

Each poster presenter is assigned one space on a flat, upright panel. Presenters are required to use the panels provided by IAIA and to provide the materials to put their posters in place.

Advertising is not permitted.

Posters will be on display from 19-22 May.

Additional poster preparation information is available on the IAIA26 web site (<https://2026.iaia.org/say-it-with-a-poster/>).



Sessions

About the technical program. The technical program is structured into two streams: (1) thematic sessions focusing on “Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, and Impact Assessment” and (2) general impact assessment sessions, including topics that address issues of interest to IAIA’s special-interest Sections. Four select “theme forums” will follow the opening plenary to kick off discussions. Theme forums focus on cross-cutting issues relevant to the many specialties of impact assessment, with topics that engage the conference theme.

The sessions listed below are open for abstract submissions through 30 October. See page 5 for instructions.

Accelerating with Integrity: Strengthening Social Impact Assessment in the Face of Urgency and Misinformation (PS)	EA in Latin America: Bridging Infrastructure and Communities for Sustainable Development (PS)	Is the Sky Falling? Addressing the Impacts of Earth and Human Systems (PS)
Advancing Government Approaches to Effective Science Communication in Impact Assessment (PD)	Earth Observation for Impact Assessment (PS)	Land Tenure Legality and Governance: Barriers to Environmental Compliance (PS)
After the Assessment – Where’s the Value and What Happened in the End? (PS)	EIA Litigation Around the World (PD)	Let’s Talk About Risk: Engaging on Low Likelihood, High Consequence Events (PD)
Are We Living in the Post-Consultation Era? (PD)	Engaging Communities: Digital Storytelling for Trustworthy IA (PS)	Managing the Right to Privacy in Impact Assessment (PS)
Asian S3EA: Strategic, Spatial, and Sustainable EA with Effective Information (PS)	Engaging Indigenous Nations for Inclusive Impact Assessments and Misinformation Response (PD)	Mining Across Land, Sea, and Space: Understanding and Communicating Social Impacts (PS)
Assessing Information: Conflicting Data Interpretation and Eroding Public Trust (PD)	Engaging Stakeholders in Adversity: Practices, Pitfalls, and Pathways (PS)	Navigating Uncertainty in Impact Assessment to Support Expedited Decision Making (PS)
Assessing Integrity: The Role of Impact Assessment in High-Quality Nature-Based Carbon Projects (PS)	Enhancing the Credibility and Impact of Climate Change and Health Impact Assessments (PS)	Offshore Windfarm Ornithology - Gaming an EIA (G)
Best Practices in Land Use Surveys and Better Information Sharing (PS)	EsIA and Permitting Improvements for Efficiency and Effectiveness: Lessons Learned (PS)	Perspectives on Assessing Cumulative Impacts in the Global South (PS)
Biodiversity Impact Assessment: Information Disclosure, Risk Identification, and Legal Regulation (PS)	Everything Everywhere All at Once: Harnessing Holistic Impact Assessment (PS)	Planning Support Systems for Environmental Assessment and Urban Decision Making (PS)
Breaking the Academic Silence in LATAM: Communicating Environmental Assessment (PS)	Experiences in Enhancing Communication through the Application of AI in IA (PS)	Policy and Regulation Changes: Building Public Trust in EIA Systems (PS)
Bridging the Gap: Empowering Local Governments in Developing Economies to Make Environmental Impact Assessments Understandable and Actionable (PS)	Fair Resettlement: Managing Stakeholder Expectations and Misinformation (PS)	Post-Resettlement Realities: Trust, Housing, and Livelihoods Reconsidered (PS)
Canada’s Bill C-5 Experiment: Move Fast and Make Things or Move Fast and Break Trust? (PD)	Innovating to Restore Public Trust: Transforming Practices and Tools to Inform Audiences (PS) <i>(in French)</i>	Power and Perception: Misinformation, Disinformation, and the Environmental and Social Narrative in Hydropower Development (PS)
Climate Change Impact Assessment: Countering Misinformation with Science (PS)	Fit For Future and Act at Present: Impact Assessment for Leveraging Challenges and Opportunities from Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (PS)	Professional Capacity Building and Certification as Tools for Building Stakeholder Confidence (PS)
Climate Change Impact Assessments for Cultural Heritage: Bridging Informational Gaps (PS)	FPIC - How Prior is Prior? (PD)	Public Participation in IA Follow-up for Ongoing Communication and Providing Sound Information (PD)
Climate Impact Assessments After the ICJ’s Climate Change Opinion (PD)	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples: A Transparency Tool to Strengthen the Legitimacy of Impact Assessments (IA) in the Face of Misinformation (PD)	Public Trust and Social Impact Assessment: Lessons Learned from Major Projects (PD)
Climate Risks Assessment in the Age of Climate Misinformation (PS)	From Field to Boardroom: Digital IA Beyond Initial Permitting (W)	Public Trust in Regulatory Systems and Environmental Assessment (W)
Connecting Infrastructure and IA – Assessing Impacts in Contested Planning (PS)	From Gridlock to Greenlights: Using Solution Rooms to Unlock Legitimacy in Critical Minerals Development (S)	Railroading the Assessment of Health and Social Valued Components in Impact Assessment (PD)
Contested Narratives: Misinformation, Mobilisation and Impact Assessment (PD)	From Reluctance to Results: How Grievance Mechanisms Can Build Trust in Protected Areas (PD)	Reaching the Unheard: Inclusive Public Engagement in Practice (PS)
Culture’s Role in Impact Assessment (PS)	Gender and Intersectional Analysis in IA: Showcasing Theory and Practice (PS)	(Re)building Trust and Transparency to Navigate Complex Energy Transitions (PS)
Cumulative Effects Assessment: Does It Make a Difference? (W)	Health Impact Assessment to Tackle Misinformation and Foster Participation (PD)	Reframing Impact Assessment Narratives in Africa: Combating Misinformation, Power Asymmetries, and Distrust in Development (PD)
Cumulative Effects: Whose Responsibility is it Anyway? (PD)	IA Ideas Worth Stealing (PK)	Science Gripped by Controversies During Impact Assessments (PD)
Disasters, Conflict and Impact Assessment: What is Up, What is Down, What is Coming Around? (PS)	IAIA Academia Section: IA Teaching and Research in the Age of Misinformation and Disinformation (PS)	“Science Isn’t Just for Scientists”: IA and Advancing Technical Literacy (PS)
Disrupting Climate Misinformation Among Indigenous West Africans (W)	Implementing Indigenous Free, Prior, Informed Consent in Impact Assessments (PD)	SEA for Industrial Zones: Technological Exploration and Practical Innovation (PS)
	Indigenous Rights in Impact Assessments: Understanding Impacts Using Gender-Based Analysis Plus and UNDRIP (PK)	SEAs and SDPs for 2050 (PD)

See <https://2026.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/> for session descriptions.

Simple, Evidence-Based Communication Approaches for Successful Biodiversity Conservation and Management (PD)

Spreading the Deliberative Approach to Impact Assessment and Decision Making (W)

Status of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Legal Frameworks on Impact Assessment (PD)

Strategic, Not Generic: The Next Generation of Regional Assessments (PS)

Streamlining IA in an Era of Global Uncertainty (PD)

Synergies between Impact Assessment and the Circular Economy (PD)

Technical Outreach and Storytelling: Key to Investing in Biodiversity (PD)

Territorial Security in Communities Impacted by Industrial Activities (PS)

The Importance of Effective Communication for Impact Assessments (PS)

The Other Side of Misinformation: When Collectors Create Bias (S)

The Truth Tangle: Untying Misinformation in Impact Assessment (PS)

Transformative IA - System Changing Leadership and Communication (W)

Transparency to Trust: Communicating Complex Science and Data Effectively (PS)

Trust and Efficiency: Unlikely Bedfellows When Mitigating Mis- and Disinformation (PS)

Using Digital Tools to Enhance Transparency & Collaboration During Impact Assessments (PS)

Using Global Biodiversity Data to Make Past Assessments and Future Projections (PS)

What Makes a Good Decision and Who Gets to Decide in Impact Assessment? (WC)

When Misinformation Spreads Faster than Facts: Social Strategies in LATAM (PD)

INVITATION ONLY

These sessions have speakers pre-identified and specifically invited by the session chairs. They do not accept unsolicited abstracts.

Braiding Climate Change Adaptation into Cumulative Effects Assessments: Honouring Indigenous Knowledge in Impact Assessment (PD)

Building a Causal Loop Diagram for Impacts of Fast-Track Project Approvals (WC)

Building Trust: Strengthening Accountability and Communication in Development Finance (PD)

Communicating Truths: EA Practitioner Professional Ethics and Roles (PD)

Cultural Heritage: Current Trends and Best Practice (W)

Development Accountability: Fear of Retaliation, and How It May Affect the Integrity of Impact Assessments (PD)

Effective Access to Information and Redress in Development Financing (S)

Ending the Expert Battle: Tools for Addressing Complex Technical Issues (W)

Fair and Equitable Outcomes Through Deliberative Wellbeing Approaches? (PD)

The Issue-Based Approach: Towards a More Readable, Credible, and Useful Environmental Assessment (PD) *(in French)*

Impact Studies in an Era of Change: Innovation and Opportunities Under the New Québec and Canadian Frameworks (W) *(in French)*

Five Years of the Escazú Agreement – Delivering on Its Promise? (PD)

From Theory to Practice: Nature Positive Landscapes in the Mining Sector (PD)

Good Morning, Impact Assessment! Data, Decisions & Digital Wilds (PD)

Hydropower Sustainability Standard: Combating Disinformation through Transparent Assessment (PD)

Indigenous Involvement in Oversight of Federally-Regulated Energy Infrastructure (PD)

Indigenous-Led and Jointly-Led Regional Assessments in Canada (PS)

Innovation, Transparency, and Sustainability in Permitting 5.0 through AI (PD)

Justice in the Chain: Human Rights and Engagement in Energy Transition (S)

LIAR, LIAR: A Game of Perception, Skill, and IA Smarts (G)

Overlooked Impacts of MDB-Financed Road Projects and Accountability (W)

Psycho-Social Impact Assessment – Gauging Effects of Marginalisation (W)

Renewing Renewables' Impact Assessments: Emerging Practices Towards Value Creation (PD)

Rethinking Stakeholder Engagement from the Accountability Lens (S)

Shovel Ready vs Participation Ready: IA in the Age of Streamlining (W)

Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment in Canada – Overview, Effectiveness and Challenges (PS)

The next 30 Years of Health Impact Assessment: Introducing the Handbook on HIA (PD)

The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy of Local Opposition to Projects (PD)

Toward Clarity and Coordination: Streamlining Mining Environmental Assessments in Canada (PD)

Transforming Together: Dialogue, Transparency, & Action in Energy Transitions (PS)

Trust via Transparency: Community-Led Mangrove Restoration & Nature-Based Livelihoods (PD)

Truth or Consequences: Data Verification Across Digital Divides (W)

USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward (PD)

USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward - Solution Room Session (S)

“War on Projects”: The Diffusion of Misinformation, Conflict, and Trauma (S)

Watershed Intelligence: Integrating Science and Engagement in Impact Assessments (PS)

We did that?! How the World Bank Counters Misinformation to Safeguard Project Integrity and Public Trust (PD)

What in the World is Going on with NEPA? (PS)

CLOSED

These sessions do not accept abstracts.

An Exploration of the Use of Documentary Film for Environmental Reporting and Non-Technical Summaries (W)

Basic Tools for Stronger Argument and Clearer Writing (W)

Beyond Compliance: Rebuilding Social Trust in Times of Misinformation and Distrust (WC)

Co-Constructing Projects: Are You Really Ready to Empower Stakeholders and Indigenous Communities? (G)

Effective Mis/Disinformation Response: Rapid Capacity Building (G)

Ethical Dilemmas in Impact Assessment: World Café Hypothetical (WC)

Information at the Heart of Public Participation: How Can We Do This Well to Avoid Misinformation or Disinformation? How to Reach Audiences? (WC) *(in French)*

Global Perspectives on the State of Impact Assessment (IA) Effectiveness (W)

Meet the Editor (W)

Plain Language as a Tool to Manage Misinformation (G)

Planetary Boundary Impacts and Mitigation/Regeneration SEA Guidance (PD)

Plug in to IAIA! (W)

Principles to Practice: Information and Communication in Indigenous HIA (W)

Reclaiming the Narrative: Storytelling, Emotion, & Trust in Impact Assessment (WC)

Tackling Nuclear Misinformation Through Creative and Scientific Dialogue (W)

The Stance Dance, Social Performance Edition: Exploring Success Stories (G)

Updating Best Practice Principles on Engaging with Indigenous Communities (W)

Using Futures-Thinking Tools to “Future-Proof” IA (W)

When Myth Builds Reality: Strategic Lessons for Impact Assessment in the Latin American Context (S)

World Café: Improving How We Define and Assess Temporal Boundaries (WC)

Conference overview

- The conference will formally begin at 13:00 on Tuesday, 19 May.
- Training courses will be offered 17-18 May.
 - Technical visits will be offered 17, 18, and 23 May.

Tentative Program Overview

Check the final program for confirmed dates, times, and events.

	Pre-conference Saturday 16 May	Pre-Conference Sunday 17 May	Pre-Conference Monday 18 May	Conference Day 1 Tuesday 19 May
06:00				
06:30				
07:00				
07:30		Registration for training courses and technical visits	Registration	Registration
08:00		Technical visits	Technical visits	
08:30				
09:00				
09:30		Training courses	Training courses	
10:00				Newcomer Network meet and greet
10:30				
11:00				
11:30				
12:00				Note: Lunch is <u>not</u> provided.
12:30				
13:00		Registration for training courses and technical visits		Opening plenary
13:30				
14:00				
14:30				Break
15:00	Registration for training courses and technical visits			Theme forums
15:30				
16:00				
16:30				
17:00				Poster session and welcome reception
17:30				
18:00				
18:30				
19:00				
19:30 onward				

Conference overview

- Visit <https://2026.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/> for a full list of proposed sessions.
- The welcome reception will take place on Tuesday, 19 May, and the banquet on Friday, 22 May.

	Conference Day 2 Wednesday 20 May	Conference Day 3 Thursday 21 May	Conference Day 4 Friday 22 May	Post-Conference Saturday 23 May	
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					19:00
					19:30 onward

Sponsored meetings, networking activities, and social events

Welcome/Poster Reception

Kick off the conference with our vibrant welcome reception! Reconnect with familiar faces, make new connections, and gear up for an exciting week ahead. Enjoy a relaxed evening of networking and conversation, and be sure to explore the poster presentations on display—an excellent chance to engage with the innovative thinkers behind the work. Don't miss this fun and inspiring start to your conference journey!

Tuesday, 19 May | 17:00-19:00
Pre-registration required.

Awards

IAIA is proud to celebrate the 2026 award winners! Join us in recognizing the incredible individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of impact assessment and to the IAIA community. We'll be sharing more details soon—stay tuned and help us honor their inspiring accomplishments!

Tag Us!

Post about IAIA26 before, during, and after the conference using **#IAIA26**.

IAIA Section Meetings: Network and Engage!

Join one (or more!) of IAIA's many special-interest Section meetings at the conference (see the full list on page 23). These informal gatherings are the perfect opportunity to meet colleagues who share your professional interests, network, and get involved in activities that drive innovation and best practices in impact assessment. Whether you're interested in health, academia, technology, or any other Section topic, this is your chance to contribute to the conversation and shape the future of our field. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to connect!

Wednesday 20 May | 17:45-18:45
Thursday 21 May | 17:45 - 18:45

Banquet

After the closing plenary, celebrate the end of a remarkable week of learning, networking, and growth at the historic Voltigeurs de Québec Armoury. Built in 1885, this stunning Gothic Revival landmark—home to North America's oldest French-speaking battalion—is the only Canadian armoury designated as a national historic site, offering a unique setting to connect, share ideas, and meet colleagues one last time.

Friday 22 May | 19:00 onward
Price: \$65
Pre-registration and extra fee required.

Newcomer Network

Are you a first-timer or an IAIA conference veteran? Either way, you can benefit from participating in the Newcomer Network! The Newcomer Network offers a warm welcome to those attending our conference for the first time by introducing them to experienced attendees (and other first-timers). One or two veterans at each table will be joined by a group of first-timers in an informal setting to help "break the ice." In addition to getting to know each other, first-timers can ask questions about making the most of their conference experience as well as questions about IAIA in general. After 15 minutes, first-timers move to a different table to start again with a different group. It is also a simple and informal way for veteran attendees to open a door or two for their own social and professional interactions.

Join the meet and greet to connect with a new friend or two. IAIA staff members will also be available to answer questions.

To participate, tick the veteran or first-timer box on the registration form.

Newcomer Network meet and greet
Tuesday 19 May | 10:00-11:30
Pre-registration required.



IAIA training courses will be held 17-18 May 2026 at the Québec City Convention Centre. Separate registration fees apply, and pre-registration is required.

Please register early! Courses will be canceled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 18 March 2026.

Important dates:

18 March: Courses without the minimum registrants after this date are canceled

29 April: Last date to register for or change courses

In consideration of the trainers and their need to prepare appropriate quantities of course materials, registrants may not change courses after 29 April 2026.

About training courses

Who can register? Training courses are open to anyone who registers and pays by 29 April 2026. If you are not also registered for the conference, you will be charged an additional US\$90 fee.

Who teaches the courses? Primarily IAIA members. All course proposals are vetted by IAIA's Training and Professional Development Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, so you can be assured these are experienced, qualified professionals.

What is the class size? Minimum/maximum class sizes are noted in each course description. If the course you choose does not reach the minimum number by 18 March, IAIA HQ will notify you and provide refund information or offer to transfer you to another course.

Where are they held? In person at the conference venue in Québec City.

How much do they cost and what is included? IAIA's one-day courses are \$285; two-day courses are US\$485. The cost includes course materials, light lunches, and coffee breaks.

Can I add a training course later? If you have already registered for the conference but want to add a training course, contact info@iaia.org with your request; this cannot be done online. Any additions must be made by 29 April.

What if I need to cancel? If you must cancel, your course registration fee will be refunded minus a US\$125 administrative fee, provided you send written notification to IAIA HQ by 29 April. No refunds will be given after 29 April.

Some details for when you arrive onsite: Check-in for the training courses will be available at the IAIA registration desk in the conference venue. Name tags will be distributed at check-in and are required for admission to courses. Check-in the day before your course begins is encouraged.

Student training course fee waivers

A limited number of free training course registrations are available to student participants of IAIA26 when courses reach their minimum paid enrollments. For application instructions, see page 21.

1 Labor rights and influx in impact assessment

This course examines how labor rights and workforce influx issues should be addressed in environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs). Participants will learn how to incorporate labor rights and influx into baselines, impact evaluation, and significance assessment. The course will explore measures to prevent labor breaches, promote human rights and equal opportunity, and build productive worker–employer relationships, while also analyzing how project workforces contribute to in-migration and affect community support.

Typical challenges in infrastructure projects—such as working hours, sub-contracting, vulnerable workers, and workforce accommodations—will be discussed, along with strategies like labor commitments, worker codes of conduct, and skills development. Attention will also be given to gender-differentiated impacts on local communities and approaches to managing influx and strengthening resilience.

This training will include presentations, individual and group exercises, case studies, and plenary discussions.

Level: Foundation/Intermediate

Prerequisites: None

Language: English

Duration: 1 day (17 May)

Min/Max: 7-35

Price: \$285

Instructor: **Marielle Rowan**, Technical Director-Social Performance, Mott MacDonald Group (Canada)

Training courses

2 Disinformation response and social risk management

This IAIA training course will provide participants with current frameworks and tools to identify, assess, and manage social risks, with a particular focus on the growing challenge of project risks linked to mis- and disinformation. The course is designed to strengthen participants' capacity to consistently and systematically address these risks in order to maximize social value.

Through the introduction of international frameworks, participants will gain practical tools and skills for social risk management and disinformation response. They will learn strategies to engage communities and stakeholders effectively, supporting major infrastructure projects, including those related to climate adaptation and mitigation.

The course draws on the work of the Australian National University Institute for Infrastructure in Society (ANU I2S), including the 3Ps (Place, Project, Proponent) Social Risk Scanner Tool, the Infrastructure Engagement Excellence (IEE) Standards, and related Project Assessment Tools. Case studies and interactive exercises will highlight practical applications, with special attention to distinguishing and addressing mis/disinformation. Participants will also benefit from the Disinformation in the City project and the world's first disinformation response playbook for cities (2024), while sharing experiences and reflecting as a group to strengthen learning.

Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Participants should have (1) at least three years' in-field experience in impact assessment, strategic communications, risk management, community/stakeholder engagement or sustainability in major projects; (2) a university degree; and (3) familiarity with social impact and/or risk management requirements for major projects.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (17-18 May)

Min/Max: 15-45

Price: \$485

Instructors: Professor **Sara Bice**, Co-Founder & Director, I2S Institute for Infrastructure in Society, ANU (Australia); **Ika Trijsburg**, Director Urban Analytics & Disinformation in the City Research Fellow, ANU Crawford School (Australia)

3 The fundamentals of strategic environmental assessment

This course will introduce participants to the need, role, benefits, concepts, and basic theory of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Based on the latest synthesis of best practice and experience from IAIA's new guidance on applying SEA to the energy transition, the course will provide a cutting-edge overview of SEA stages and modalities. By the end of the training, participants will understand SEA fundamentals, be able to develop terms of reference, review SEA documents, and prepare for conducting an effective SEA process.

The course will combine presentations, group exercises, and interactive discussions to reinforce learning. Presentations will cover key topics including what SEA is and why it is needed; its role and benefits; challenges in applying SEA; and the stages of SEA—preparation, inception and scoping, the main assessment, and preparation of a Strategic Environmental and Social Management Plan (SESMP). A real-world case example of a high-level SEA conducted for southwest Bangladesh and the Sundarbans will also be shared.

Practical exercises will center on a hypothetical SEA case, guiding participants to identify key environmental and social issues, prepare linkage diagrams to illustrate impact pathways, and explore how cumulative impacts can arise. Group work results will be discussed in plenary sessions, ensuring that participants leave the course with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in applying SEA tools and approaches.

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Prerequisites: It would help if participants have basic training in environmental impact assessment (EIA) or social impact assessment (SIA), or have completed a university-based specific course or program on EIA and/or SIA, and/or have a demonstrable practical professional experience in undertaking EIA/SIA. Previous training in, or practical experience of conducting, SEA would be a distinct advantage.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (17-18 May)

Min/Max: 10-50

Price: \$485

Instructors: Professor **Barry Dalal-Clayton**, Director, Environmental and Development Services International (UK); **Peter Nelson**, Principal, Planning Green Futures Ltd (Sierra Leone)

4 Complexities of resettlement and livelihood restoration

Resettlement projects are inherently complex, requiring difficult trade-offs and decisions to balance competing objectives. This advanced IAIA course focuses on the most challenging aspects of resettlement—such as managing physical versus economic displacement, applying a human rights lens, mitigating delays, and restoring livelihoods when original options are no longer viable.

Rather than covering the basics, the course targets the issues practitioners consistently identify as most complex. Through case studies, workshops, and collaborative discussions, participants will work through real-world dilemmas while drawing on peer experiences and the trainers' extensive expertise.

Led by Liz Wall (Shared Resources) and Amy Sexton (Sexton Consulting), who together have over 40 years of global experience, the course builds on more than 25 IAIA resettlement trainings. The trainers bring deep knowledge of IFC Performance Standard 5, EBRD Performance Requirement 5, and other IFI standards, creating a practical, knowledge-sharing platform for resettlement professionals worldwide.

Level: Advanced

Prerequisites: Participants would ideally have (1) at least 2 years of direct experience designing, implementing or auditing resettlement and/or livelihood restoration activities; (2) a university degree; and (3) familiarity with the IFC Performance Standards or similar.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (17-18 May)

Min/Max: 10-40

Price: \$485

Instructors: **Liz Wall**, Shared Resources Pty Ltd (Australia); **Amy Sexton**, Sexton Consulting (Australia)

5 More effective IA: Tools for stronger argument and clearer writing

This course will help you reason more clearly and write more effective impact assessments. Better arguments make key decisions more transparent and help reduce risks to projects. Environmental impact assessment—like all technical writing—constantly uses reasoning to reach conclusions. That process is called “argument,” which means to assemble a series of reasons, leading to conclusions, for a specific audience.

This course shares two sets of tools collectively called Organized Reasoning. The first provides principles for creating clearer arguments that apply to phases of the IA process. The second shows how to better present arguments in written documents. The course shows how IA documents contain common errors in their arguments and weaknesses in their writing. Participants will assemble evidence and reasoning for several different kinds of argument found in IAs. We practice steps, and demonstrate computer-based tools, that show how to bring improved arguments to technical reports. Participants learn a revised approach to planning, preparing, and writing documents that they can use immediately on the job. More details at www.glennbrown.ca.

The course takes two days. There will be a half-day online follow-up session three months later. You will receive handouts documenting the main ideas.

Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Some previous participation in preparing and writing IA documents.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (17-18 May)

Min/Max: 7-25

Price: \$485

Instructor: **Glenn Brown**, Adjunct Professor, Royal Roads University, School of Environment and Sustainability (Canada)



Training courses

6 Cumulative effects assessment

This course summarizes the state of professional practice regarding cumulative effects assessment (CEA) within IA processes, demonstrates fundamental requirements for a case study project in Québec, illustrates determination of significance of cumulative effects, discusses adaptive management (and monitoring) as follow-up for large-scale proposals, and reviews policy choices and collaboration approaches for developing cumulative effects mitigation and management initiatives. A special presentation will be made on Indigenous approaches to the assessment and management of cumulative effects.

The course premise is that CEA should be an integral part of, and not separate from, both in-country and international IA processes. Fundamental requirements are presented through stepwise procedures with incorporation of international best practice principles. These procedures identify key valued components (VCs); delineate spatial and temporal boundaries; describe historical baselines and future trends; establish cause-effect linkages between past, present, and future actions and VCs; determine significance of cumulative effects; and support adaptive management, project mitigation, and regional management programs.

Practical processes for preparing, reviewing, and managing CEA-related documents will be emphasized, along with presentations on international case studies and interactive workshops. Group discussions will allow participants to share perspectives and present outcomes to the class—an approach highlighted as a strength in past course evaluations.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	Foundation training on IA or CEA (professional-level short course or University-level specific course or program); and/or minimum of 2 years in professional experience in planning and conducting IA or CEA for environmental impact studies. (Note: these prerequisites do not apply to student participants.)
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	10-50
Price:	\$485
Instructors:	Bill Ross , Emeritus Professor of Environmental Design, University of Calgary (Canada); Miles Scott-Brown , Consultant (Canada); Michael D. Smith , Director, Environmental Process and Policy, WSP (USA)

7 Leadership in ESIA

The theme for IAIA26, “Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, and Impact Assessment,” underscores the urgent need for trustworthy leadership in an era where public confidence in science, institutions, and environmental decision making is increasingly fragile. Leadership training has become essential for ESIA professionals who must now navigate emotionally charged contexts, polarized stakeholder landscapes, and growing skepticism toward evidence-based assessments.

This course is designed to equip IA professionals with the leadership, communication, and emotional intelligence (EQ) skills needed to effectively guide teams, engage stakeholders, and maintain credibility amid misinformation and ideological divides. Participants will explore leadership roles specific to ESIA, including how to lead with clarity, manage public perception, and foster inclusive dialogue in environments where facts may be contested or misunderstood.

Practical tools for communication, influence, negotiation, and conflict resolution will be explored, with a focus on real-world applications and role-based scenarios. The course also emphasizes personal reflection, self-awareness, and EQ as vital leadership assets in maintaining transparency, ethics, and trust in the impact assessment process.

By participating in this training, IA professionals will strengthen their ability to lead collaboratively and ethically—restoring trust, enhancing public engagement, and advancing the credibility of environmental assessments in today’s complex information landscape.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	General experience managing or coordinating IA professional teams through to impact statement submission/review. An interest in self-development, particularly leadership and management level skills to enhance personal and project team performance.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	10-30
Price:	\$485
Instructor:	Palash Sanyal , University of Saskatchewan/Governing Water (Canada)

8 Human rights in impact assessment

This two-day course is designed to provide professionals and decision makers who work in sectors with high risk for human rights, including digital technologies, with information and tools to understand and address human rights impacts, challenges, and opportunities related to the projects.

Through cases and exercises, the participants will discuss human rights impacts in the life cycle and value chain of projects (including sourcing of critical minerals) and learn practical ways to operationalize the corporate responsibility to respect human rights as established in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The course includes an overview of the regulatory landscape related to business and human rights, as well as reflects on gender dimensions and the and impacts on Indigenous peoples' rights and environmental/human rights defenders. A session will be specially dedicated to the human rights dimensions of disinformation, misinformation, and communication in both digital and physical spaces.

Finally, the participants will learn and apply principles and methodologies to ensure the identification and assessment of human rights risks and impacts and how to apply a human rights-based approach for a meaningful engagement with workers and communities including vulnerable groups during impact assessment phases and due diligence.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Some knowledge or experience in developing, commissioning, or reviewing impact assessment or due diligence of physical projects and supply chain. Basic knowledge of human rights or business and human rights standards would be an advantage but is not required. Professionals and students with knowledge of human rights but no previous experience in impact assessment can also participate.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	10-28
Price:	\$485
Instructors:	Gabriela Factor , Chief Adviser, Human Rights, Tech and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark); Ioana Tuta , Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Technology, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark); Noah Mardirossian , Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)

9 More effective EIA follow-up: How to seamlessly connect EIA and EMS through improving communication and leadership

EIA implementation and follow-up are crucial for achieving environmental assessment outcomes. While follow-up processes ensure EIA recommendations are implemented through tools like Environmental Management Systems (EMS), HSE-MS, and sustainability reporting frameworks, insufficient integration between EIA and EMS creates suboptimal environmental outcomes and unrealized potential.

This course strengthens EIA-EMS linkages throughout project lifecycles by improving communication, leadership, and partnerships among stakeholders. Module one reviews pre-decision tools (conventional EIA) and post-decision tools (EMS/HSE-MS, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018). Module two focuses on linking pre-decision EIA to post-decision management tools. Module three emphasizes communication improvement, with participants practicing stakeholder identification and engagement strategies. The final module explores HSE cultural maturity theory's relationship with EIA implementation, challenging participants to develop seamless, flexible EIA/EMS processes that transcend traditional pre-decision/post-decision boundaries.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Participants should have a basic understanding of IA processes and terminology, along with some awareness of EMS. Prior experience may come from attending an introductory IAIA course, at least a year of professional practice in EIA or EMS/HSE implementation, or relevant academic or research experience. An interest in EIA implementation and follow-up is especially desirable.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	7-20
Price:	\$485
Instructor:	Behzad Raissiyan , Independent Environmental Advisor (Iran)

! Please register early!

Courses will be cancelled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 18 March.

Training courses

10 Understanding IA from an international finance institution's perspective: What they really need from a fit for purpose ESIA

This course builds understanding of how ESIA can better meet the real-world expectations of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in terms of delivering fit for purpose outputs and outcomes. It draws from Mark King's significant experience working with, within, and leading IFIs on E&S due diligence and risk management.

Attendance will enhance your knowledge across different IFI E&S expectations by understanding commonalities and differences in approach and expectations at both macro architectural level and by drilling into detail on a range of prominent E&S issues.

You will gain insight and practical appreciation of what is expected to meet IFI client expectations. The course focuses on appreciating proportionate assessment and action planning by focusing on improving your understanding of what IFIs mean by the phrase "fit for purpose" in the context of different parts of the IA process. Attendance will also help you appreciate how you can improve your competency to work with IFIs.

The course combines presentations and case examples across current and emergent IFI E&S priority issues with practical activity-based sessions and facilitated discussion to help you recognize how to work with IFI clients to ensure effective IA and risk management, often within challenging circumstances.

Level:	Foundation/Intermediate
Prerequisites:	This course assumes a foundational understanding of IA and environmental and social risk management. Familiarity with financial institution standards (e.g., IFC Performance Standards) is advantageous, as the course will not cover IA basics.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	7-25
Price:	\$485
Instructors:	Josh Fothergill , Founder & Director, Fothergill Training & Consulting Ltd (UK); Mark King , Founder & Director, King Sustainability (UK)

11 Biodiversity-friendly infrastructure: Hydroelectric, wind, and roads

Infrastructure development has direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that often extend well beyond construction sites. Many impacts on biodiversity are long term, leading to habitat loss, restricted wildlife movement, and declining species populations. These impacts are complex, affecting both ecosystems and the people who depend on them. With development accelerating worldwide, a multilevel approach is needed, as traditional mitigation based on Environmental Impact Assessments does not fully capture landscape-level effects.

This course focuses on strengthening the application of the mitigation hierarchy throughout the project cycle and linking biodiversity protection with good engineering in the design, construction, and operation of roads, hydroelectric projects and associated infrastructure (including transmission lines), and wind power. Topics include the multilevel approach to infrastructure development, upstream and ecological assessment tools, international standards, good engineering practices, construction management in sensitive areas, and offsets planning.

Drawing on good-practice case studies and exercises, the course will demonstrate practical solutions to protect biodiversity, highlight opportunities to enhance biodiversity values, and showcase how Indigenous and local knowledge can inform effective mitigation measures.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	General knowledge of the EIA process and an interest in protecting biodiversity in the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure development.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	7-25
Price:	\$485
Instructors:	Juan D. Quintero , Director, Environmental Engineering Consultants LLC (USA); Aradhna Mathur , Sr. Environmental Specialist, The World Bank (USA)

12 Navigating trust and communications issues in public participation and impact assessment

This course aims to provide hands-on insight into what makes for authentic communication and meaningful engagement for public participation (PP) in IA. It aims to explore the challenge of misinformation, disinformation, and the role of trust in communications and engagement practice, drawing on:

1. Handbook of Public Participation in Impact Assessment (June 2024)
2. IAIA Best Practice Principles for Public Participation
3. International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) pillars and foundations
4. Risk communications insights including work of Dr. Peter Sandman and Dr. Vince Covello

By course end, participants will be able to:

- Define meaningful PP, authentic communications, and related concepts and terms, and their relationship to IA.
- Articulate sources of misinformation, disinformation, and trust issues in PP in IA.
- Develop strategies for meaningful PP and authentic communications.
- Identify the role values, professional ethics, power, and influence at play in PP in IA.
- Understand distinctions between different frameworks (including IAIA and IAP2), including foundational, essential elements, and contextual elements (embedded in Handbook and Best Practice Principles).a
- Reflect on/apply the principles of inclusion, equity, and intercultural engagement.

Additionally, through a cross-over activity with two other IAIA courses, participants will gain further insights into embedding next-generation engagement principles into their IA approaches—particularly how to engage early, before a policy, plan, program, or project is conceived, and how to view engagement as part of a systems approach to IA.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	Whether working in developed or developing countries, prerequisites include an understanding and awareness of public participation and a willingness to adapt your approach and techniques to take them to the next level.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	7-24
Price:	\$485
Instructor:	Tanya Burdett , Director, Essential Planning Ltd (UK/Australia)

13 Strategic and systems thinking for sustainability (ST4S): Enable collective intelligence and good communication in impact assessment

This course aims to engage participants in creative ways to perform IA, applying strategic thinking in combination with systems thinking to enable transformative changes in processes towards sustainability. It will address the need to be very selective in searching and using relevant information, avoiding misinformation, and discussing the possible articulation with AI particularly in handling big data. Communication skills will be explored for sharing information and the outputs of the assessment processes, but especially for engaging stakeholders in facilitating analysis and assessment using collective thinking.

While this course may be relevant to all professionals in IA, it is more adequate for experts wanting to use Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Assessment (SA) with broader, long-term approaches, recognizing the complexity of systems in assessing non-site-specific development intentions, intertwining consideration of social, economic, and environmental issues. Expected learning outcomes include in-depth knowledge of the added value of applying strategic thinking and systems thinking in IA, and the differences between a strategic-based approach and an effects-based approach. Learning techniques include dialogues, sharing of experience, short presentations, case-studies, and participatory systems modelling.

Additionally, a cross-over activity with two other IAIA courses will allow participants to exchange perspectives in structured exercises, offering a more holistic understanding of issues and strategies.

Level:	Advanced
Prerequisites:	Basic knowledge on policymaking, planning and some level of experience with Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (17-18 May)
Min/Max:	7-30
Price:	\$485
Instructor:	Maria R. Partidario , Full Professor, Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST), Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

Training courses

14 Planning in the age of complexity and confusion: A systems tool for impact assessment and communication

Practitioners of IA are acutely aware of the pervasive presence of systems, ranging from ecological, social, political, and economic systems to cognitive, perceptual, value, and ethical systems. The challenge, however, lies not in naming systems, but in understanding, anticipating, and accounting for the complex web of tangible and intangible elements affected by a project or plan.

This interactive training course introduces systems thinking as a vital competency for professionals working in IA, particularly in today's context of escalating complexity, information overload, and stakeholder fragmentation.

Participants will learn how to recognize, analyze, and respond to complexity caused by interconnections, feedback loops, and cross-sectoral dynamics that conventional IA methods often overlook. The course also addresses how systems thinking and participatory systems modeling can help counter misinformation, anticipate unintended consequences, identify cumulative effects, and improve the clarity and credibility of IA communication.

Through practical exercises, a semi-real case study, real-world examples, structured tools, and a cross-over activity with two other IAIA courses, participants will be equipped to move beyond linear cause-effect logic and toward adaptive, integrated, and communicable approaches to IA. The course builds capacity not only for technical analysis but also for strategic sense-making and stakeholder dialogue in complex planning and policy contexts.

Level:	Advanced
Prerequisites:	Basic knowledge of policymaking, planning, and some level of experience in working with IA (i.e., understanding the multitude of sectors that are included in an IA, whether it is an EIA, SEA, CEA, SIA, or other), as the course is about handling and communicating information and complexity. Exhibit openness and readiness to learn about a new methodology and tools for the application in their own work context.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (18 May)
Min/Max:	7-25
Price:	\$285
Instructor:	Johanna Gordon , Estonian Environment Institute (EKKI) (Germany)

15 How to create your Indigenous-led impact assessment process

There are many different resources and training opportunities available to Indigenous groups in Canada about provincial and federal IA processes, laws, and regulations, but few that equip them to create their own approach to environmental decision making. This course seeks to fill that gap. It provides a path for Indigenous groups to create their own IA approval process for projects or activities proposed in their territory to be implemented alongside, or independently from, those required by provincial or federal governments.

Course content includes:

- An overview of the objectives for creating an Indigenous-led assessment process including recovering knowledge, affirming values, knowledge, concerns and interests, and strengthening recognition of Indigenous authority.
- The Canadian legal and policy context for creating Indigenous-led assessment processes
- Six steps with questions for consideration that can be used as a model for creating Indigenous-led assessment processes.

The learning outcomes are an increased understanding of how Indigenous-led assessment can exist alongside federal and provincial assessments and strengthen recognition of rights related to environmental authority and decision making, and a set of steps that can be considered in developing an Indigenous-led assessment process.

Level:	Foundation
Prerequisites:	Basic knowledge of key IA terms and process would be helpful.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (18 May)
Min/Max:	20-30
Price:	\$285
Instructors:	Caroline M. Coburn , Partner & Managing Director, Odonaterra Inc (Canada); Fiona Wirz-Endrys , Community Impact and Food Security Specialist, Odonaterra Inc (Canada); Alana Graham , IA Coordinator, Mushkegowuk Council (Canada); Lawrence (Logan) Jeffries , Elder Member, IA Advisory Group, Mushkegowuk Council (Canada)

Please register early!

Technical visits will be canceled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 18 March 2026.

Important dates:

- 18 March: Visits without the minimum registrants after this date are canceled
- 18 April: Last date to register for visit C
- 29 April: Last date to register

About technical visits

Who can register? IAIA26 delegates and their guests can register for technical visits at the same rate.

How do I secure my spot? You must be pre-registered and pre-paid by 29 April. Registrations are processed in the order payment is received.

Can I add a technical visit later? If you have already registered for the conference but want to add a technical visit for you or a guest, contact info@iaia.org with your request; this cannot be done online. Any additions must be made by 29 April.

How many people on each visit? Minimum/maximum numbers are noted in each description. If the visit you choose does not reach the minimum number by 18 March, IAIA HQ will notify you and provide refund information or offer to transfer you to another visit.

Where do we meet? Technical visits depart from the conference venue. Plan to check in for the visit a minimum of 15 minutes prior to noted departure time. Busses will leave on time. Late arrivals will not be admitted.

What if I need to cancel? If you must cancel, the fee will be refunded, less an administrative fee of 25% of the technical visit cost, provided we receive written cancellation notice by 29 April. No refunds will be given after that date.

Liability statement: IAIA, the organizing committee, and the venue will not be responsible for medical expenses, accidents, losses or other unexpected damage to property belonging to conference participants, either during or as a result of the conference and during all tours and events. Participants are strongly advised to arrange their own insurance for health and accident, lost luggage and trip cancellation.

Participants will be required to sign a liability release waiver upon check-in for the visits.

Technical & cultural visits

A | UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL: ROGER VAN DEN HENDE BOTANICAL GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE COMPLEX

This visit to Université Laval—the Roger-Van den Hende Botanical Garden and the High-Performance Greenhouse Complex—serves as a practical and educational immersion into ecological systems, biodiversity, and sustainable agricultural innovation. These themes are central to environmental impact assessments, which aim to evaluate and mitigate the effects of projects on natural and human environments. The botanical garden introduces participants to Laurentian flora, offering insights into plant ecology and conservation. The greenhouse complex showcases advanced research in plant protection, peat-based substrates, and genomics.

Sunday 17 May

Depart 08:00 | **Return** 12:00

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 13-23

Price \$70 Price includes transportation and snacks.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen, walking shoes.

B | ARCHEOLOGY AND HERITAGE SITE IN OLD QUÉBEC

Old Québec, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the birthplace of French America, is a fortified city steeped in over 400 years of history and rich cultural heritage. This visit focuses on urban archaeological sites and offers a concrete illustration of how cultural heritage is integrated into impact assessment processes. It highlights preventive archaeology practices and heritage protection mechanisms within an urban development context. Participants will learn how archaeological constraints are considered from the earliest planning stages, how local authorities (City of Québec, MCC, Parks Canada) collaborate with developers and experts, and how excavation findings are shared and valued with the public.

Sunday 17 May

Depart 09:30 | **Return** 16:30

Level of physical activity: Moderate

Minimum-Maximum 12-39

Price \$130 Price includes lunch at Château Frontenac (excluding beverages).

Special notes This visit is on foot. Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen, walking shoes. Limited accessibility for people with impaired mobility.

C | ROMAINE POWERHOUSE: A CONCRETE EXPERIENCE TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION

The Romaine power plant on the Romaine River in Northern Québec offers a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the realities of a large-scale hydroelectric project. Accompanied by a representative from Hydro-Québec and an environmental specialist, participants will explore the implementation of this major project, as well as the numerous mitigation measures put in place and the environmental monitoring program. This immersive experience aims to promote transparency, showcase best practices in environmental assessment, and equip participants to better recognize and deconstruct the misleading narratives often associated with such projects. Sponsored by Hydro-Québec.

Monday 18 May

Depart 06:00 | **Return** approximately 19:30

Level of physical activity: Moderate

Minimum-Maximum 15-42

Price \$250 Price includes breakfast and light dinner on plane, box lunch, snack, and transportation including chartered plane.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen, closed shoes (no sandals). Passport required. No pacemakers. 18 April registration deadline.

D1/D2 | SUGAR SHACK DINNER

Experience a true Québec tradition with this cultural visit to a festive sugar shack dinner at Le Relais des Pins on Île d'Orléans, just 25 minutes from the congress center. Enjoy a hearty, 2-hour family-style meal featuring maple-infused dishes like *tourtière* (traditional meat pie), baked beans, maple-glazed ham, pancakes, and even maple taffy on snow. Surrounded by rustic charm, live folk music, and plenty of laughter, guests can join in with wooden spoons and immerse themselves in this warm, unforgettable celebration of Québec's maple syrup heritage.

D1: Monday 18 May **Depart** 18:00 | **Return** 21:00

D2: Saturday 23 May **Depart** 11:30 | **Return** 14:30

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 40-93

Price \$60 Price includes transportation and meal. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased separately.

Special notes None.



Technical & cultural visits

E | CAP TOURMENTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

The Cap Tourmente NWA, made up of marshland, plains, and forests, is located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, 50 kilometers northeast of Québec City. Established in 1978 by Environment and Climate Change Canada, its purpose is notably to protect the American bulrush marshes, the main habitat of the greater snow goose during its migration. Participants can see firsthand how environmental communication strategies, rigorous scientific monitoring, and stakeholder engagement combine to prevent disinformation, inform public decision-making, and continuously assess the impacts of a protected site.

Monday 18 May

Depart 08:00 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: Low to moderate

Minimum-Maximum 15-27

Price \$180 Price includes transportation, admission fee, box lunch, snack, and water.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen, hiking shoes, bring insect repellent. Optional: bring binoculars for bird watching.

F | ÎLE D'ORLÉANS BRIDGE AND MONTMORENCY FALLS

This visit will begin at the construction site of the new Île d'Orléans Bridge—one of the first projects in Québec to undergo an impact assessment using the issue-based approach. Participants will gain insight into how this method was applied in practice. The visit will then continue with a guided tour of Montmorency Falls, standing 30 meters higher than Niagara Falls. The tour will explore over 250 years of history, from early exploration and the 1759 French-British battles to the industrial era and the construction of one of Québec's first hydroelectric power plants. The area has been restored to its natural beauty, making it a major attraction for visitors.

Monday 18 May

Depart 08:30 | **Return** 12:30

Level of physical activity: Moderate

Minimum-Maximum 24-46

Price \$60 Price includes transportation, lunch box, snack and water, and admission fees including gondola ride.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen. *Safety boots are mandatory to approach the bridge. These will not be provided, so participants must bring their own.

G | CULTURAL VISIT TO WENDAKE

IAIA26 will be held on the Onyionhwhentsiio', the land of the Wendat Nation. This cultural visit to Wendake offers an experience of the Wendat heritage and culture. Participants will enjoy a guided tour of the Wendat museum, followed by a visit to the longhouse, showcasing traditional architecture. The experience will continue with a three-course meal at La Traite restaurant, where Indigenous flavors meet gourmet cuisine. Participants are then invited to explore Wendake at their own pace, discovering local artisans, shops, and the Akiawenhrak river.

Monday 18 May

Depart 08:45 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 15-46

Price \$115 Price includes transportation, 3-course meal, snack and water, admission fees.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen, walking shoes.

H | MASSIF-DU-SUD WINDFARM

Several wind farm projects are being built or are under study in regions near Québec which are known for their recreational and tourism attractions. You will visit a wind farm facility with the Environmental Project Manager and his environmental consultant and see the main issues associated with this type of project, the mitigation measures, and the integration efforts that are being made. The windfarm is located in the beautiful Parc du Massif du Sud, a year-round "must-visit" destination. After the windfarm visit, the tour will take you on a beautiful hiking trail.

Saturday 23 May

Depart 08:30 | **Return** 16:00 to 17:00

Level of physical activity: Low to moderate

Minimum-Maximum 15-49

Price \$170 Price includes transportation, lunch box, snack and water, and park pass.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, rain gear/sunscreen. Closed-toe shoes are required. *Safety boots are mandatory to approach the turbine. These will not be provided, so participants must bring their own. Walking shoes for the hike. Weather is unpredictable in May, and the tour will be adapted based on the condition of the access roads.

I | JACQUES-CARTIER NATIONAL PARK

This visit demonstrates how accurate, site-based interpretation can enhance public understanding of environmental systems. Explore the breathtaking Parc national de la Jacques-Cartier, home to a stunning 550-meter-deep glacial valley. Begin the day with a rabaska canoe excursion, gliding across calm waters while learning about the park's history and conservation efforts. Afterward, enjoy a catered lunch. The adventure continues with a guided one-hour walk through the area's diverse landscapes, offering a closer look at its rich natural beauty and cultural heritage. This immersive experience combines paddling, walking, and learning for a memorable day in one of Québec's most spectacular natural settings.

Saturday 23 May

Depart 09:00 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: High

Minimum-Maximum 15-39

Price \$165 Price includes transportation, lunch, and access and activity fees.

Special notes Wear outdoor active clothes, rain gear/sunscreen.

J | RIVERBANK PROTECTION AND ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS IN QUÉBEC CITY

An immersive tour through three flagship projects that showcase innovative approaches to shoreline stabilization, flood management, and ecological restoration in urban environments. These projects demonstrate the harmonious integration of civil engineering, bioengineering, and phytotechnology in response to today's environmental and climate challenges. The tour will include three key sites: the vegetated shoreline stabilization at Jacques-Cartier Beach, which addresses progressive erosion along the St. Lawrence River; the Promenade Samuel-De Champlain, where an ecosystem-based approach was used to recreate representative riparian wetlands; and the Lorette River project, which showcases permanent infrastructure designed to protect vulnerable areas from flooding.

Saturday 23 May

Depart 09:30 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: Moderate

Minimum-Maximum 10-20

Price \$165 Price includes transportation, lunch box, snack, and water.

Special notes Wear outdoor clothes, closed shoes, rain gear/sunscreen.

* **Safety boots** have rigid soles and protective toe caps made of steel, composite, etc. If participants do not have boots or prefer not to approach the wind turbines or bridge, safety boots are not mandatory. In that case, we recommend good walking shoes. Participants without safety boots can be close to the windmill but must stay a certain distance from the turbines. For the bridge, participants without safety boots must stay at a viewpoint outside of the direct construction site.

Financial aid opportunities



With over 1,100 delegates from 80+ nations around the world, IAIA26 is your opportunity to network with professionals and learn about current best practice principles, recent tools, and techniques for impact assessment.

A discounted student registration fee is available, as are other financial aid opportunities for students, young practitioners, and others.

Read more about these opportunities and apply online at:

<https://2026.iaia.org/financial-aid-opportunities/>

Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship

The Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship honors the legacy that IAIA's former CEO has left on the organization and the field of impact assessment. This scholarship allows young practitioners in the region of the host country to attend the IAIA annual conference. Potential candidates are those who:

- Have never attended an IAIA annual conference in the past.
- Have submitted an abstract to present a paper at IAIA26 by the 30 October abstract deadline.

The application deadline is **8 January 2026**.

Student Training Course Fee Waivers

A limited number of free training course registrations are available to student participants of IAIA26 once courses reach their minimum paid enrollments. If you are interested, please send the following to kiesha@iaia.org:

1. Your name
2. A 300-word statement of interest explaining how the chosen training course could contribute to your research or student career
3. Proof of full-time student status (proof can be provided in the following forms: a copy of a recent transcript or a letter from an administrative professional indicating your full-time student status)
4. First and second course choices (see courses listed on pages 11-18).

Applications for free course registrations will be accepted from **18 March - 7 April 2026**. Allocations of the free training course slots will be made by 10 April 2026 based on the order in which the requests were received and subject to instructor approval.

Conference Inclusiveness Bursary

IAIA values equitable participation and the inclusion of diverse voices in impact assessment. The Conference Inclusiveness Bursary (CIB) Program will award a limited number of bursaries to Indigenous persons from across Canada, covering registration and travel expenses to enable full participation in IAIA26.

By reducing financial and logistical barriers, the program ensures that Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and lived experiences are represented in conference discussions, enriching dialogue and strengthening the global impact assessment community.

Thanks to funding from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, a limited number of bursaries will be awarded. The application deadline is **14 November 2025**.

Capacity Building Stipend

IAIA, with support from the Government of Norway and in partnership with the Norwegian Environment Agency, offers this Capacity Building Stipend (CBS) Program to aid individuals in attending IAIA26.

The primary objective of this stipend is to provide training and knowledge to impact assessment professionals in Norway's partner countries who are working to sustainably manage their country's energy resources.

A select number of applicants who meet all qualifications will receive a stipend to attend the conference. **More information to follow.**

Sponsors and exhibitors

Sponsorship opportunities

Reach **over 1,100 key participants** in the global impact assessment community, representing over 80 nations.

Sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to sustainability to delegates from around the world while you contribute to the improvement of impact assessment locally and globally.

WHO WILL YOU REACH?

- Government
- Consultants
- Private Sector
- Development Banks
- Education & Research
- NGOs

DID YOU KNOW? 63% of IAIA members are executive/senior level.

WHY SPONSOR IAIA26?

IAIA is the only interdisciplinary international association dedicated to impact assessment. Our annual conferences bring together a unique mix of experts and professionals and a unique opportunity for you to promote your organization. Recent conferences have included between 800 and 1,000 delegates from 80+ countries.

- Demonstrate leadership in addressing misinformation and disinformation—a major global challenge impacting policy and public engagement.
- Connect with potential clients, future partners, and key players in the field.
- Be recognized as a champion of trust, transparency, and environmental responsibility.
- Position your brand at the forefront of the global conversation on public trust, science communication, and sustainability.
- Support inclusive and science-based decision making that fosters community trust, Indigenous engagement, and sustainable development.
- Give your staff the opportunity to network with leading practitioners and experts.
- Ensure that your company will be remembered by the delegates long after the event is over.

What benefits do sponsors receive?

Exclusive opportunities and customized sponsorship packages are available for any budget. Benefits for sponsors may include:

- Complimentary and discounted registrations
- Online recognition on the IAIA26 sponsors page
- Mobile app push notification to delegates
- Training discounts and customized professional development
- Direct access to global thought leaders
- And more!

INTERESTED? CONTACT US!

Contact us to create a package just right for you.

Caitlyn Grimm, IAIA HQ
caitlyn@iaia.org | +1 701 297 7908

If you are in Canada, contact:

Jean Hébert
direction.generale@aqei.qc.ca | +1 514 355 8001

To ensure that you receive all promised benefits, please confirm your sponsorship by **6 April 2026**. After that date, benefits cannot be guaranteed.

Check out the benefits available to your company by downloading the full IAIA26 sponsorship prospectus at <https://2026.iaia.org/sponsors-exhibitors/>



EXHIBITORS

Advertise your company or demonstrate your project: prominent display space is available! Contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org) before **6 April 2026** for information and rates on exhibit booths, table space, and poster panels.

Meet the IAIA Sections!

IAIA has special-interest Sections that cover different types and aspects of impact assessment.

IAIA Sections provide opportunities for IAIA members with these mutual interests to share experiences and discuss ideas in an informal setting. Sections provide a forum for active topical debate and for development and promotion of good practice. Some Sections have a rolling program of work throughout the year and all have opportunities to meet virtually during the year.

The members of the Sections and their activities are the lifeblood of IAIA: through the Sections, IAIA members can feed into the organization of each annual conference, publish different materials, and develop new lines of thought.

Why get involved in Sections?

- Sections are a networking forum for IAIA members, where you can meet your colleagues with similar professional interests.
- Sections promote your personal professional development.
- Sections develop interesting activities that you may want to join.
- See www.iaia.org/sections for more information.

Where can I find the Sections at the annual conference?

- Each Section will hold a Section meeting during the conference, which everyone is welcome to attend (see page 10. The meeting schedule will be posted in the final program.
- All sessions that have been organized by the Sections are clearly identified in the final program.
- Section chairs will be identified by ribbons on their name tags so that you can find them during the conference.

Any questions?

IAIA members, reach out to the Section Chairs on the Hub. Non-members, contact info@iaia.org, or visit www.iaia.org/sections for more information.



Academia

Thomas Fischer
Reece Alberts

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Ijeoma F. Vincent-Akpu
Juan Carlos Tejeda Gonzalez

AI & Emerging Technology

Alan Bond
Valentina Cavanna
Anna Chadarevian
Jiří Dusík
Giuseppe Magro

Biodiversity & Ecology

Denny Grossman
Jo Treweek

Climate Change

Andreea Nita
Sumia Mohamed

Cultural Heritage

Arlene Fleming
Chris Polglase

Cumulative Effects

Martin Haelele
Angeles Mendoza Sammet
Johanna Gordon

Disasters & Conflict

Charles Kelly
Tracy Hart

Governance and Implementation Systems

Cheryl Wasserman
Giuseppe Magro

Health

Ryngan Pyper
Valentina Cavanna
Liz Berghuis-Mutubuki

Indigenous Peoples

Diana Lewis
Dyanna Jolly

Public Participation

John Sinclair
Timothy J. Peirson-Smith
Tanya Burdett

Social Impact Assessment

Irge Satiroglu
Katherine Witt
Ilse Aucamp

Students and Young Professionals

Mathilde Butler

Conference information

LOCATION AND DATES

IAIA26 will take place from 19-22 May 2026 at the Québec City Convention Centre with adjunct events planned before, during, and after the conference. Activities will take place at the convention center unless otherwise noted.

The address is 1000 Bd René-Lévesque E, Québec, QC G1R 5T8, Canada | www.convention.qc.ca/en/

LANGUAGE USED (CONFERENCE)

English is the primary language used at IAIA conferences. Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will be held in English.

FINAL PROGRAM AND MOBILE APP

This preliminary program contains the tentative schedule and plans; be sure to check the final program to confirm details of activities in which you would like to participate. Please note registration deadlines for special events.

To conserve paper, IAIA plans to have a minimal final program. It will be posted in PDF on the website approximately one month prior to the conference, and it will be available in hard copy at conference check-in at the convention center.

The final program will also be available in the IAIA26 mobile app, which delegates can use to search for sessions and speakers, select favorite sessions to create a personal agenda, take notes, and more. The mobile app will be available approximately two weeks prior to the conference.

PUBLICATIONS

IAIA plans to publish optional conference papers and PowerPoint slides online following the conference. A Program Committee representative will contact you with details after your paper or poster abstract is accepted.

Participants are also encouraged to submit their papers for possible publication in IAIA's journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*. See www.tandfonline.com/r/iapa for submission information.

CONFERENCE ATTIRE

IAIA conferences are generally business casual.

PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT

PowerPoint projectors and laptop computers will be provided in each session room. Presenters are responsible for arranging and paying in advance for any other equipment needed for their presentations. Contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org) for price information and to order equipment before 1 April 2026. For on-site inquiries, payment will be required at time of request, and IAIA cannot guarantee that equipment will be available.

BUSINESS SERVICES

To avoid equipment rental costs which would necessarily be passed on to delegates in the form of higher registration fees, IAIA does not provide copying, printing, phone chargers, computers or other business services or equipment on-site. Please plan to arrive prepared, or contact your hotel in advance to ensure that it offers any facilities you may need.

MEALS

IAIA will provide lunches 20-22 May and coffee breaks 19-22 May at the convention center.

Lunch will not be provided on 19 May.

Based on the data collected via registration forms, IAIA will estimate a percentage of vegan and gluten-free meals. This does not guarantee accommodation of individual preference.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a disability and/or have special accessibility needs and require assistance, please contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org | +1.701.297.7908) by 29 April 2026 to discuss your specific needs.

VIDEO/AUDIO POLICY

Individuals officially identified by IAIA may photograph, videotape, and/or audiotape conference events. By attending the conference, you agree to allow your image to be used by IAIA. Individuals are not permitted to record with personal audio or video equipment or other recording devices such as cell phones, cameras, or recorders without prior permission from IAIA and the speaker/presenter.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

IAIA, the organizing committee, and the venue will not be responsible for medical expenses, accidents, losses, or other unexpected damage to property belonging to conference participants, either during or as a result of the conference and during all tours and events. Participants are strongly advised to arrange their own insurance for health and accident, lost luggage, and trip cancellation.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

All conference participants, including delegates, sessions chairs, invited speakers, organizers, exhibitors, and paper and poster presenters, are required to register for the conference at the in-person or exhibitor rate.

IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and/or travel expenses for program participants.

In-person delegates will receive a name badge upon check-in. The badge is an official pass and must be worn to obtain entry to conference functions. If tickets are required for any events, they will be distributed by HQ. All delegates will receive access instructions for the mobile app in advance of the conference.

PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICIES

Registration fees should accompany the registration form. **To qualify for the Early Bird rate, both the registration form and payment must be received by 28 January 2026.** Fees are accepted by MasterCard, Visa, or American Express and are charged in US Dollars (US\$). Checks made payable to IAIA in USD drawn on a US bank are also accepted.

All invoices will include a US\$10 processing fee. To avoid this fee, please pay with a credit card at checkout.

Registration closes 29 April 2026. Pre-registration and pre-payment by 29 April are required. Cash payments on-site will not be accepted.

IAIA will refund registration fees upon written request received before 29 April 2026. A processing fee of 25%, not to exceed US\$125, will be retained. **After 29 April, no refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows.** Substitutions for paid registrants may be made in writing without financial penalty. Refunds will be issued after the conference. The refunded amount may differ depending on exchange rates.

General information

HOST CITY

Québec City, the capital of the province of Québec, is a charming and historic city known for its well-preserved Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Perched on the cliffs overlooking the St. Lawrence River, it boasts cobblestone streets, 17th-century architecture, and the iconic Château Frontenac. The city offers a rich French heritage and stunning scenery, making it a top destination for history buffs and travelers seeking European charm in North America.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

IAIA has arranged room blocks at select hotels. See more information at <https://2026.iaia.org/> > More Info > Plan Your Stay.

CLIMATE

In May, Québec City experiences mild spring weather as the region transitions from the chill of winter. Days are generally cool to pleasantly warm, with an average high temperature around 16°C (61°F), while nights can still be brisk, with average lows near 5°C (41°F).

LANGUAGE USED

Québec City is primarily French-speaking, with French serving as the official and most widely used language in daily life, education, and government. While the majority of residents are Francophone, English is also spoken, particularly in tourist areas.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All attendees from outside Canada are responsible for making sure they have the correct documentation to enter the country. Delegates are strongly advised to check with their local embassies and explore visa requirements as early as possible, and should a visa be required, to apply as soon as possible as the process can be time consuming.

Need an invitation letter? You must register for IAIA26 first! A link to request your letter is included in the registration confirmation email.

Entry requirements by country or territory. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/entry-requirements-country.html>

Traveller entry requirements. <https://travel.gc.ca/returning/entry-requirements>

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN QUÉBEC CITY

Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB) is located about 15 km from downtown Québec City (20–30 minutes by car).

Taxi: A ride to Old Québec or downtown costs about CAD \$35–45. Taxis are available outside the terminal.

Uber: Available and widely used in Québec City.

Bus: RTC routes 80 and 11 connect the airport to downtown in about 45–60 minutes.

Car rental: Avis, Budget, Enterprise, and Hertz operate at the airport.

Getting around: Old Québec and downtown are easy to explore on foot. For other neighborhoods, RTC buses provide extensive service.

Helpful app for Québec City's public transit system: <https://www.rtcquebec.ca/informations-pratiques/pour-rester-informe/rtc-nomade-temps-reel>

BUSINESS HOURS

In Québec City, most businesses operate Monday to Friday, typically opening around 09:00 and closing between 17:00 and 18:00. Retail stores and shopping malls often stay open later, especially on Thursdays and Fridays, sometimes until 21:00. On weekends, many shops are open from around 10:00 to 17:00. Restaurants and cafés usually have extended hours, especially in tourist areas, while government offices and banks follow standard weekday business hours.

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The monetary unit in Québec City, Canada, is the Canadian Dollar (CAD). As of September 2025, the conversion rate is approximately CAD \$1.00 to US \$0.73. ATMs are readily available at the airport and throughout the city, including in major shopping areas. Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted, while American Express is accepted at many establishments but not everywhere.

TIPPING

Tipping is customary and expected in Canada, including in Québec City.

Restaurants: 15% to 20% of the pre-tax bill for good service. If the service is exceptional, tipping more is appreciated. Tipping is an important part of servers' income in Canada, so it's generally expected unless the service was poor.

Tour guides: Tipping is not mandatory but is a common way to show appreciation for a well-run and informative tour. CAD\$5 to \$10 per person for a half-day tour and CAD\$10 to \$20 per person for a full-day tour, depending on the quality of the experience.

Hotel porters: CAD\$1 to \$2 per bag, depending on the level of service. If the luggage is heavy or the service is particularly helpful or prompt, tipping a bit more is a nice gesture.

Taxis: About 10% to 15% of the fare.

ELECTRICITY

In Canada, the standard voltage is 120 V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Canada uses plug types A and B. Plug type A has two flat parallel pins, while plug type B has two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin.

TAXES

In Québec, sales taxes are not included in displayed prices.

5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST)

9.975% Québec Sales Tax (QST)

The combined rate is 14.975%. Tax refunds are not available for foreign visitors.

VISITOR INFORMATION/ HELPFUL SITES

Québec City Tourism: <https://www.quebec-cite.com/en>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://meetings.quebec-cite.com/en/faq>

Useful Tourism Information for Québec City: <https://www.quebec-cite.com/en/plan-your-trip-quebec-city/useful-information>

Bonjour Québec: <https://www.bonjourquebec.com/en>



About IAIA

IAIA is the **International Association for Impact Assessment**, the leading global network on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans, and projects.

IAIA was organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. Our 1300+ individual and corporate members represent over 100 nations and many disciplines and professions. Our annual conferences regularly welcome over 1000 participants, and our regional symposia and other events focus attention on specific topics. Available resources include a professional journal, downloadable publications, training options, and much more.

IAIA's Vision: A just and sustainable world for people and the environment.

IAIA's Mission: IAIA provides the international forum to advance best practice and innovation in impact assessment and advocates for its expanded use for the betterment of society and the environment.

IAIA's Values: IAIA promotes the application of integrated and participatory approaches to impact assessment, conducted to the highest professional standards. IAIA believes the assessment of the environmental, social, economic, cultural, and health implications for proposals to be a critical contribution to sound decision-making processes, and to equitable and sustainable development. IAIA is committed to the promotion of sustainability, the freedom of access to information, and the right of citizens to have a voice in decisions that affect them. When we assess the impact of policies, plans, programs, or projects, we promote the free flow of complete, unbiased and accurate information to decision makers and affected parties. We believe that impact assessments should be inclusive and comprehensive, addressing the broader social and health impacts as well as any impacts on the biophysical environment. Respect for human rights and human dignity should underpin all assessments. We acknowledge that we have a duty of care to both present and future generations.

Reducing the Carbon Footprint

IAIA continues to strongly support the need to reduce the carbon footprint of our conferences.

To this end, US\$7 from every conference registration will be donated to a local organization for further environmental causes.

IAIA encourages conference delegates to travel green! See Green Your Travel (<https://2026.iaia.org/green-your-travel/>) for some suggestions to help you get started.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Jean Hébert
Annie Prince

TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jack Krohn (Chair)
Ana Maria Esteves
Mario Gauthier
Charles Kelly
Jean-François Mouton
Ahmed Sanda
Yunae Yi

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jean Hébert (Co-chair)
Annie Prince (Co-chair)
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Jean Hébert (Co-chair)
Annie Prince (Co-chair)
Anne-Marie Gaudet
Julie Magoules
Marie-Ève Martin
Romain Nigris
Annie Prince

1 | DELEGATE INFORMATION

Please fill out form completely. Type or print neatly in BLOCK letters. Be sure to include your name and organization exactly as you would like that information to appear on your delegate badge and/or online profile. Pre-registration and pre-payment by 29 April 2026 is required. Registrations will not be accepted on-site.

Today's date _____ (month)/_____ (day)/20_____ (year)

First name _____

Title _____

Address _____

State/Province _____

Country _____

Last (family) name _____

Organization _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____ @ _____

2 | REGISTRATION FEES (all fees in US\$)

	Early Bird (by 28 January)	Regular
IAIA Member (or Affiliate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$695	<input type="checkbox"/> \$815
Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$870	<input type="checkbox"/> \$990
Student (proof of current enrollment required)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$290

3 | MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (optional)

Tier 1 (Low Income Economies)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Tier 2 (Lower Middle/Upper Middle Income Economies)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95
Tier 3 (High Income Economies)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165

4 | PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSES (17-18 May)

Pre-registration and pre-payment by 18 March is encouraged. Courses may not be switched after 29 April.

1. Labor rights & influx in IA	17 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$285
2. Disinformation response & social risk management	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
3. Fundamentals of SEA	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
4. Resettlement & livelihood restoration	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
5. Tools for stronger argument & writing	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
6. Cumulative effects assessment	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
7. Leadership in ESIA	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
8. Human rights in IA	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
9. More effective EIA follow-up	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
10. Fit for Purpose ESIA for IFIs	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
11. Biodiversity-friendly infrastructure	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
12. Trust in public participation & IA	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
13. Strategic & systems thinking for sustainability	17-18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$485
14. A systems tool for IA & communication	18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$285
15. Creating your Indigenous-led IA process	18 May	<input type="checkbox"/> \$285

Non-IAIA26 delegates

☐ add \$90

5 | SPECIAL EVENTS / PROGRAMS

Welcome reception

19 May # Persons: Delegates _____ Guests _____

Banquet

22 May # Persons _____ @ \$65 = \$ _____

Newcomer Network

19 May ☐ I am a FIRST-TIMER.

☐ I am a VETERAN.

Meal preference (choose one)

☐ Standard

☐ Vegan

☐ Gluten free

6 | TECHNICAL VISITS

Pre-registration and pre-payment by 18 March is encouraged. After 18 March, registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 29 April or the maximum number of paid participants is reached. *Technical visit C has a registration deadline of 18 April.

A. Botanical Garden/Greenhouse	17 May	# Persons _____	@ \$70 = \$ _____
B. Archaeology Old Québec	17 May	# Persons _____	@ \$130 = \$ _____
C. Romaine Powerhouse*	18 May	# Persons _____	@ \$250 = \$ _____
D1. Sugar Shack	18 May	# Persons _____	@ \$60 = \$ _____
D2. Sugar Shack	23 May	# Persons _____	@ \$60 = \$ _____
E. Cap Tourmente NWA	18 May	# Persons _____	@ \$180 = \$ _____
F. Île d'Orléans Bridge	18 May	# Persons _____	@ \$60 = \$ _____
G. Wendake	18 May	# Persons _____	@ \$115 = \$ _____
H. Massif-du-Sud Windfarm	23 May	# Persons _____	@ \$170 = \$ _____
I. Jacques-Cartier National Park	23 May	# Persons _____	@ \$165 = \$ _____
J. Riverbank Protection	23 May	# Persons _____	@ \$165 = \$ _____

7 | PAYMENT INFORMATION

Registration fee US\$ _____

Membership renewal US\$ _____

Total of activities fees US\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE US\$ _____

Pre-payment by 29 April 2026 is required. Cash payments on-site will not be accepted.

Charge to ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Expiration date (mo/yr) ____ / ____ CCV/CVV security code ____

Print name on card _____

Authorized signature _____

☐ **Wire transfer** in US\$. (Contact info@iaia.org for wire transfer instructions. Registrations will not be processed until full payment has been received. A US\$10 invoice convenience fee will be added.)

8 | SEND REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTER ONLINE 2026.iaia.org

BY E-MAIL info@iaia.org

QUESTIONS? info@iaia.org

DON'T MISS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY, EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT!

What sets IAIA conferences apart from other conferences? Past IAIA delegates say...

Practice-oriented sessions that practitioners from different disciplines can understand and relate with.

“

It opened my eyes to things that are happening around the world and it also brought solutions to some of the challenges that I am facing in impact assessment.

“

It's a really safe zone where we can meet people from all parts of the world who are facing the same problems related with environmental impact assessment. We can meet new people, open new possibilities of future job opportunities.

“

You see, meet, and interact with IA legends.

“

Important dates and deadlines

Please note dates are firm.

30 October 2025

- Paper and poster abstract submission deadline

14 November 2025

- Conference Inclusiveness Bursary application deadline

8 January 2026

- Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship application deadline

28 January 2026

- Early Bird registration rate ends
- Last date presenters and session chairs may register and pay in full to be included in the final program

18 March 2026

- Technical visits and training courses below minimum will be canceled, so registration by this date is encouraged

18 March - 7 April 2026

- Applications for student training course fee waivers accepted

6 April 2026

- Sponsorship confirmation
- Deadline for exhibitors

29 April 2026

- Registration closes

17-18 May 2026

- Pre-conference training courses and technical visits

19-22 May 2026

- IAIA26

23 May 2026

- Post-conference technical visits



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