

19 November 1973

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan,
Faculty of Graduate Studies,
University of British Columbia,
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Dr. McTaggart-Cowan:

I much enjoyed listening to your address on a methodology for predicting environmental effects, at the November 15th session of the Winnipeg conference.

We have recently completed a brief to the Ontario Environmental Ministry outlining our views on some of the legal tools which must be made available to the public, to assure that an assessment such as your own, for example, would be mandatory for contemplated projects.

Indeed, since it is likely that Ontario may be the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement environmental impact procedures through legislation, we think it necessary that they be procedures worthy of emulation in other provincial jurisdictions, as well as at the federal level.

Should you intend to respond to the Ontario government's Green Paper on Environmental Assessment (which precipitated the creation of our brief), we would appreciate a copy of such remarks. Also, we would ask that if you can support some or all of the principles espoused in our brief, you indicate this in your own submission, should you decide to make one. Submissions should be addressed to:

Hon. J.A.C. Auld,
Minister of the Environment,
135 St. Clair Avenue West,
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

I realize that responding to Ontario's initiatives may not be a priority matter, given the possibility of a similar move in B.C.; but I think that governments in general need as much thoughtful and considered outside opinion on these matters as is available.

Finally, if you have any comments or criticisms of our brief, we would appreciate your sending them on, if you decide not to respond to the Ontario government.

Yours very truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Joe Castrilli
Environmental Impact Study Group
JFC/eb