



Laurentian
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Laurentian Chapter of the Society of
Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

Ottawa Pub Night

Strengths, Issues and Complexities of Risk Assessment and Communication

Adrienne Ethier, Ph.D.

Principal Scientist, Arcadis Canada Inc.

When: Wednesday April 25
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Clock Tower Brew Pub
575 Bank Street

Cost: \$1 members
\$3 non-members

Join us for an engaging talk, good eats and fine brew!
For more information contact Rebecca Dalton:

becca.dalton@gmail.com



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Strengths, Issues and Complexities of Risk Assessment and Communication

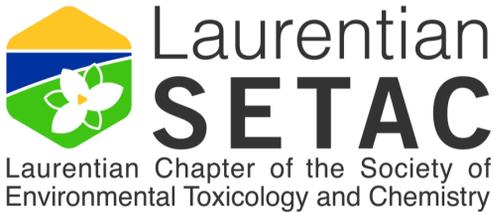
Adrienne Ethier, Ph.D.

Principal Scientist, Arcadis Canada Inc.

Abstract:

Government, provinces, municipalities and industries need to be able to make logical and transparent long-term risk management decisions for affected areas within their jurisdiction and / or responsibility. Environmental risk assessments (ERA) are intended to inform these risk management decisions through the evaluation of the potential impact to humans and biota residing near or within current historical or operational areas (retrospective ERA) and / or proposed changes to current situation (e.g., new industry, decommissioning) (predictive ERA). Risk communication then builds trust and credibility with the stakeholders and enables them to participate in the decision-making process, which in turn, helps to mitigate risk misperceptions.

The purpose of this presentation is to highlight some of the challenges, strengths and complexities of risk assessments and risk communication. It is not intended to be all-inclusive, but to draw awareness to some of the inherent difficulties conducting and communicating balanced ERAs and the inevitable impact this will have on risk management decisions.



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Adrienne Ethier, Ph.D.

Principal Scientist, Arcadis Canada Inc.

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Biography:

Dr. Ethier is both an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa and a Principal Scientist at Arcadis Canada Inc., with over 17 years of experience in the areas of contaminated sites modeling (radiological, metal, organics), environmental risk assessments, risk communication, contaminant toxicology, remedial options assessment, radiological safety assessments, radiation protection protocols, quality management systems, emergency exercise planning and design, and risk management. She has developed innovative monitoring equipment (Patent# 62/180,325) to assist with the detection of contaminants in air in isolated locations, and has also improved air, water and soil sampling methodologies (routine and emergency response) and monitoring program guidance and designs (operational and long-term post-remediation).

Dr. Ethier is currently contributing to the University of Ottawa @Risk project which is focused on identifying and developing methods to reconcile the tensions inherent in public decision-making in situations where experts and public stakeholders differ in their perceptions of risk, and preferences on how to mitigate them. She also continues to contribute, as a technical sub-committee member, to International (e.g., ISO TC82/SC2) and Canadian (e.g., CSA N288.1) standards.