

## **The Sainte-Marie-de-Kent Experience with the EIA Process ...**

### **Does EIA mean Environmentally Irresponsible Agriculture?**

[Jerry Cook & Denis Belliveau](#)

#### **April 1999**

- Kent Agri-development Project Pamphlet appears in local stores.
- Media announces the “Model Farm” - a partnership between Metz Farms and All Star Genetics

#### **June 1999**

- Public Meeting held in Sainte-Marie-de-Kent organized by Local Service District with company and government.
- Citizens told by government reps that this project is a done deal and “worry pas”.

#### **June 1999**

- Citizens form the Committee Against Hog Factories.
- over 26 groups from the region including municipalities send letters requesting an EIA.
- over 6,000 names on a petition asking for an EIA
- defeated Liberal leader, Camille Theriault and MLA, Shawn Graham ask for an EIA.

#### **August 1999**

- License issued to Metz Farms.
- Several demonstrations and car rallies were held with over a 1,000 people attending asking for an EIA.

#### **September 1999**

- Government bureaucrat call citizen’s home offering to meet to discuss concerns of citizens.
- Three citizens meet with bureaucrat and officially request that a meeting be setup with the company.
- Company refuses to meet and no dialogue since.

#### **September 1999**

- Citizens appear in court requesting a Judicial Review of the EIA process.
- Through Access to Information data received, citizens learn the review process consisted of Agriculture requesting an approval from Environment. The entire process was completed within 8 hours just prior to the Provincial election.

## **September 1999**

- Four triggers were discussed in court.
- Government witnesses refuted each trigger
- Judge George Rideout found in favour of the government thus legitimizing the review process by government.

OUR STORY:

**“Factory farms destroy water and air quality.”**

**“The environment can not absorb the waste produced by factory farms.”**

**“Factory farms must pay the social and environmental costs of their actions.”**

**“Citizens demand that government stop denying the problem, address the real issue, and directly involve citizens in the solution.”**