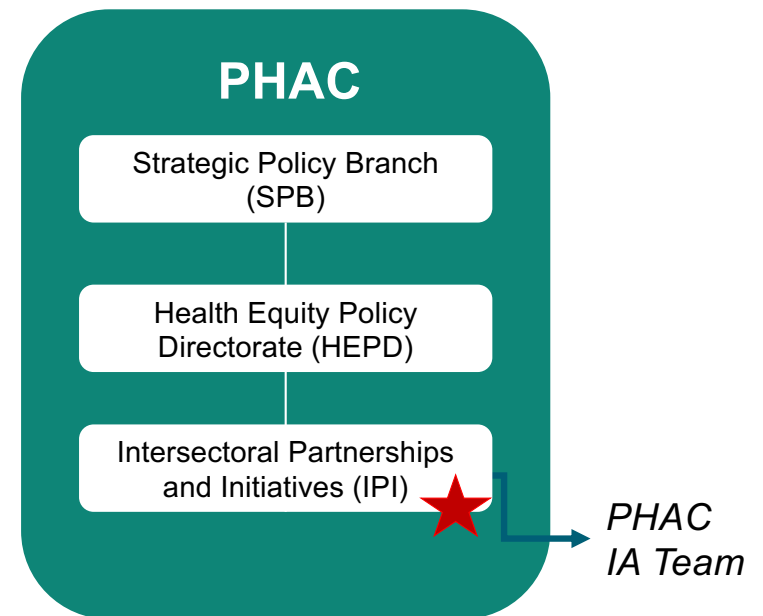


# The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Role in Federal Impact Assessment

November 21, 2024

# About Us: PHAC and Impact Assessment

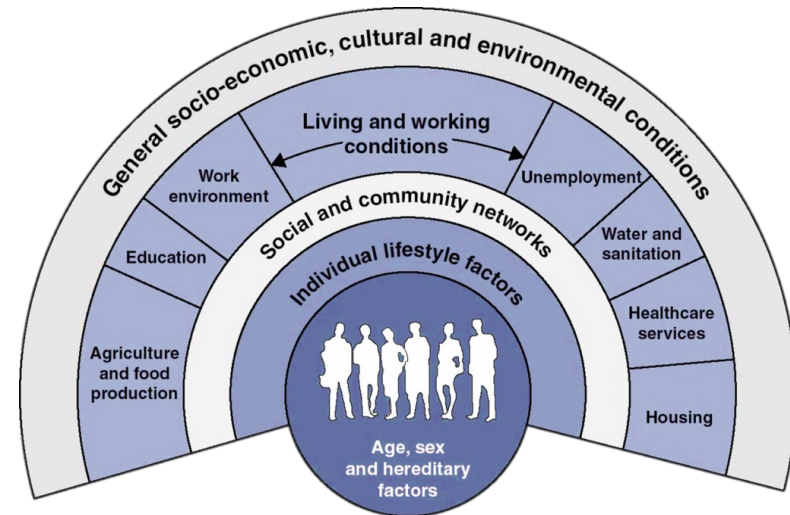
- PHAC mandate:
  - Promote health, prevent disease and injuries, and manage public health emergencies
  - Strengthen public health collaboration, facilitate public health policy and planning, and apply research and development to Canada's public health programs
- PHAC's focal point for Impact Assessment is located within a team that work on:
  - Health in All Policies
  - Whole-of-government Initiatives
  - Intersectoral Action



## PHAC's Role in Impact Assessment

PHAC provides expertise to support the assessment of health effects in IA, related to 3 key areas:

- Social determinants of health
- Health equity
- Mental Health
- New federal authority (2023/24)
- Equivalent of 1.5 full-time employees to support this work.



## PHAC's Role in Impact Assessment

- PHAC is resourced to support a very specific aspect of Impact Assessment
- Our work is scoped accordingly, to focus on:



**Project Reviews:** analysis and input on technical project documents to strengthen considerations for health and wellbeing



**Additional activities (where capacity allows):**

- Co-Chair an interdepartmental working group on Social Determinants of Health
- Support guidance development linked to PHAC's areas of expertise

# Building our Evidence Base

Evidence Reviews & Knowledge Products Underway

## Evidence Reviews

- PHAC is undertaking two projects to inform its technical review of documents on priority topics within our mandate:
  - Scoping review on project effects to the **mental health, well-being and wellness** of Indigenous Peoples in Canada
    - Summary report and Glossary of Terms compiled from 48 articles
  - Rapid review on the effects on health and social determinants of health of **industrial work camps** on workers, their families and nearby communities
    - Summary report of 21 articles

## Evidence Reviews

- **Positionality:** this work was undertaken by non-Indigenous authors and federal public servants, with the aim to foreground the views, experiences, and priorities of Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- Our ways of working involved:
  - a broad definition of evidence
  - collaboration with PHAC subject matter experts and IA health partner depts.
  - holistic consideration of mental health
  - disaggregating findings
  - synthesis of information
  - prioritized evidence by Indigenous authors and organizations
- Anticipating working versions to be completed within the next 6 months; currently seeking reviewers interested in providing feedback

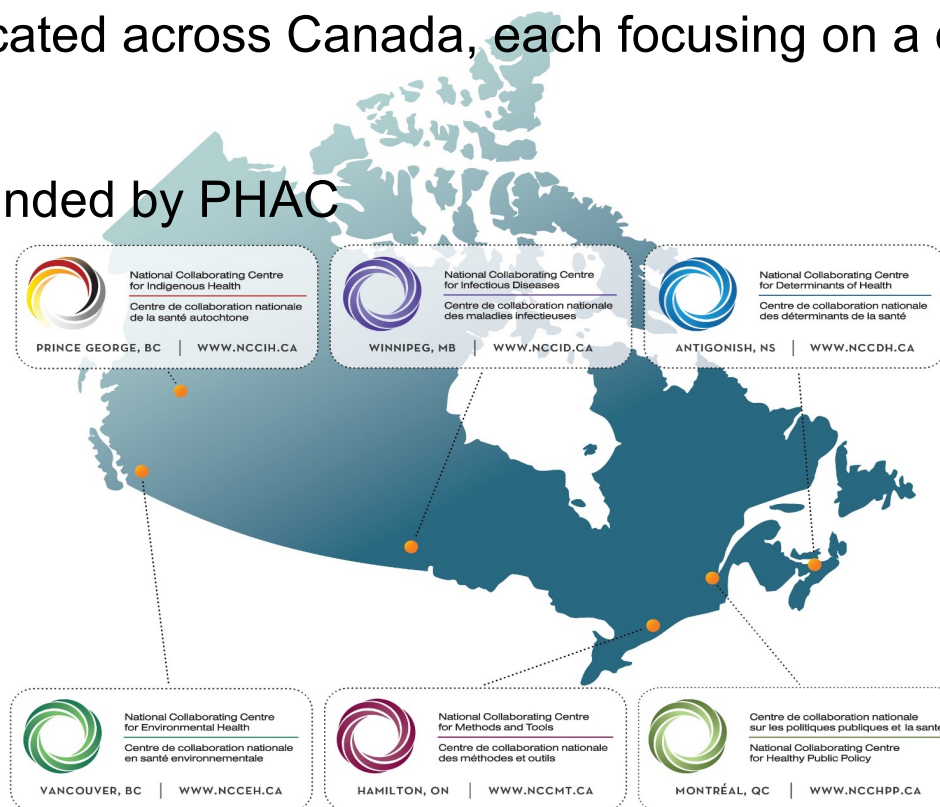
# National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

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# National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCs)

- Six NCCs are located across Canada, each focusing on a different public health theme
- All centres are funded by PHAC



## Spotlight: NCCEH & NCCIH

### National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH)

- Examines impact of natural and built environments on health and well-being & identifies evidence-informed interventions to mitigate risks
- Contact: [ncceh@bccdc.ca](mailto:ncceh@bccdc.ca)

### National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH)

- Supports First Nations, Inuit, and Métis public health renewal and health equity through knowledge translation and exchange
- Develops, synthesizes, and translates health knowledge and information that is Indigenous-led, meaningful to Indigenous peoples and fosters self-determination and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health systems
- Contact: [nccih@unbc.ca](mailto:nccih@unbc.ca)

#### Priority areas:

- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Emergency response
- ✓ Healthy built environment
- ✓ Contaminants and hazards

#### Priority areas:

- ✓ Child, youth and family health
- ✓ Chronic and infectious diseases
- ✓ Cultural safety and respectful relationships
- ✓ Determinants of health
- ✓ Healthy land, healthy people
- ✓ Indigenous Knowledge(s) and public health
- ✓ Sustainable Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples

## Spotlight: NCCHPP

### National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

- Supports public health actors in their efforts to develop and promote healthy public policies
- NCCHPP acts as the secretariat for the Canadian Network for Health in All Policies (CNHiAP)
  - Goal: to facilitate, through knowledge mobilization, the uptake and implementation of HiAP approaches
  - Aims to work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners towards HiAP approaches that recognize and incorporate their ways of knowing and governing
- Contact: [ncchpp@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:ncchpp@inspq.qc.ca)

#### NCCHPP Projects:

- ✓ Analyzing public policies
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ **Health Impact Assessment**
- ✓ Health in All Policies
- ✓ Health inequalities
- ✓ Knowledge sharing
- ✓ Population mental health and wellness
- ✓ Public health ethics
- ✓ Public Health Infrastructure
- ✓ Wellbeing Policies

# Questions?

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# Social Determinants of Health Considerations for Impact Assessment

Important to consider social determinants of health and assess whether the project activities are likely to introduce impacts to health resulting from changes in any of these areas, for example:



Employment opportunities, working conditions, income inequality, cost of living, access to education



Access to and availability of health and social services



Social cohesion, community safety, cultural continuity



Housing availability and affordability, early childhood development



Food security, traditional and cultural conditions, access to land



Fair distribution of benefits, discrimination