

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH CANADA'S ENVIRONMENTAL / IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



OVERVIEW: HEALTH CANADA'S RÔLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL/ IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

Under environmental/impact assessment regimes, Health Canada provides **expertise** in support of the **review of proposed major infrastructure or resource projects** within **legislative timelines**.

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL/IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGIMES

Context

- •Health Canada contributes to assessments conducted under federal legislation across Canada, which includes the Impact Assessment Act (IAA), the former *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) (by legislative requirement) and Northern assessments conducted under agreements in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Inuit Nunangat.
 - The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) leads assessments initiated under the IAA and those continuing for decision under CEAA 2012.
 - The Northern Projects Management Office coordinates the contributions of federal departments and agencies to assessments led by Northern boards.
- •On August 28, 2019, the IAA came into force, repealing CEAA 2012. The IAA seeks to **foster sustainability**, **ensure that Indigenous rights are respected**, **encourage investment** and **create economic opportunities**.

FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL EA/IA REGIMES



IAA

Impact Assessment Act

CEAA 2012

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (or previous)

IFA

Inuvialuit Final Agreement

JBNQA

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

NuPPAA

Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act

YESAA

Yukon Socio-Economic Assessment Act

MVRMA

Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

WHAT WE DO: HEALTH CANADA'S ONGOING ROLE UNDER CEAA 2012, IAA AND NORTHERN ASSESSMENT REGIMES

- Health Canada reviews health assessments completed by project proponents to ensure the analysis is suitable for estimating future health impacts and defining mitigation measures.
 - o Provides scientific expertise on direct and indirect health impacts of major projects by integrating expert information and knowledge from subject matter expert areas across the Department (e.g., the Food Directorate within the Health Products and Food Branch).
 - Participates in Government of Canada consultations with Indigenous peoples to support the whole-of-government consultation process.
 - Develops guidance on assessing project-related risks to health for use by project proponents.
- Health Canada's role in decision-making:
 - Under the IAA and CEAA 2012, Health Canada only plays a role in decision-making when final project decisions are referred to the Governor-in-Council, whereby one of the Health Ministers participate in Cabinet deliberations.
 - Health Canada does not play a role in decision-making in the Northern assessment regimes.
- Health Canada does not have a regulatory role under any of the regimes.

WHAT WE DO: HEALTH CANADA'S EXPERTISE

Proposed project



Change to natural and human environments



Effects on health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and all Canadians DIRECT EFFECTS ON HEALTH

INDIRECT EFFECTS
ON HEALTH

METHODS FOR ASSESSING HEALTH EFFECTS

Air Quality

Water Quality

Country Food Safety

Chemical Emergencies

Human Health Risk
Assessment

Noise

Radiation

Electromagnetic Fields

Health Impact Assessment

CUMULATIVE/REGIONAL EFFECTS ON HEALTH

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

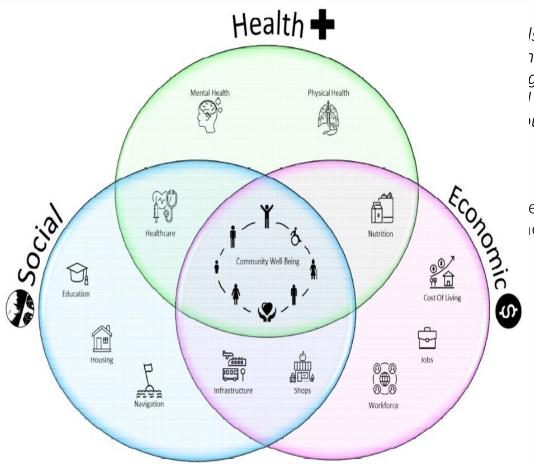
IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESEARCH FUND

GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT THE IAA

- HC's Environmental/Impact Assessment program has published six guidance documents on how to assess the health impacts of proposed major projects (e.g., noise, water quality, country foods).
- To date, published guidance has focused on biophysical determinants of health and risk assessment methods.
- New HIA guidance will support assessment of a broader suite of determinants of health in the context of impact assessment and reflects:
 - the broader scope of health and requirement to assess interaction of effects under the *Impact Assessment Act*;
 - emphasis on GBA+; and,
 - the commitment to meaningful engagement and partnership with Indigenous peoples.
- By transparently outlining best practices, the guidance facilitates high quality assessment of health impacts and benefits project proponents, IAAC, HC and ultimately Canadians.



HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT



is "a combination of procedures, methods and Is that systematically judges the potential, and netimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, gramme or project on the health of a population I the distribution of those effects within the rulation"¹.

also supports identifying actions to mitigate ential negative health effects and enhance lefits.

Figure Source: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2020.

¹ Quigley, R., den Broeder, L., Furu, P., Bond, A., Cave, B. & Bos, R. (2006). Health Impact Assessment International Best Practice Principles. Special Publication Series No. 5. Fargo, USA: International Association for Impact Assessment.





HEALTH CANADA IS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND







DID THE DEVELOPER ASK FOR, LISTEN TO, AND PLAN AROUND THE COMMUNITY'S INPUT?

- Monitoring for changes to the community's health
- Plans to keep the community safe during construction & operation
- Plans to mitigate change

Canada

FROM THE KEEPERS OF THE LAND

CHANGES — то — LAND USE & ACCESS



CHANGES — TO — COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



CHANGES — то — TRADITIONAL **ACTIVITIES**



ARE THERE CHANGES OR ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN MISSED?

- Hunting and harvesting areas
- Ecological changes
- Swimming/water use
- Cultural activities



Health Canada's Role in Impact Assessments*

WHAT WE CONSIDER





IMPACT STUDIES

are done by developers seeking to complete projects, not by Health Canada or the federal government. Generally, federal departments use the Impact Study to complete an Impact Assessment and make recommendations to the developer around safeguarding community wellbeing.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

has an integral role in information sharing and community recommendations

- Long term effects
- Cultural and historical contexts
- Environmental considerations
- Sustainability
- Reclaiming traditional areas and activities

THINGS TO REMEMBER



There will be many visitors to the community asking questions.



Health Canada is one of many departments involved in Impact Assessments. Other departments look at social and economic changes to the community among other areas - Health Canada focuses on changes to a community's health.



Specific comment periods will be scheduled for the community to actively provide input and feedback on the project.



COUNTRY FOODS

- Health Canada has recently updated its guidance for human health risk assessments that consider changes to country food quality from projects
- More broadly, traditional Indigenous food systems may contribute to food security, which is a social determinant of health
- Health Canada has drafted a paper that summarizes how impacts on traditional food security have been or could be measured
- Three Sisters Consulting is engaging with interested First Nation and Métis partners on the draft paper in Winter/Spring
- Additional community-based engagement is planned for next year
- Engagement on methods specific to Northern projects will follow

NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

HC's Environmental/Impact Assessment program has retained the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health to:

- collaborate with us over the next four years
- lead the development of Indigenous-specific resources on health impact assessments, and
- focus on distinctions-based resources with Inuit, Métis and First Nations lenses.

