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Centre for Indigenous
Environmental Resources

Summary Report: First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series

Created by:

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CIER, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, is a national First Nation directed environmental non-profit organization. We offer research, advisory, and education and training services to Indigenous communities, governments and private companies through our two program areas: Building Sustainable Communities and Protecting Lands and Waters.

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 2
1.0 Glossary of Terms 7
1.1 References 8
2.0 Background 10
3.0 Purpose and Objectives 12
4.0 Participants 13
5.0 Overview of Presentations 13
5.1 Workshop 1: *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, held on November 21, 2024 13
5.2 Workshop 2: *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*, held on April 10, 2025 15
6.0 What We Heard 16
6.1 Graphic Recordings 16
6.2 *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, held on November 21, 2024 20
6.3 Health Impact Assessment Survey 21
6.4 *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment* Workshop held on April 10, 2025 29
6.5 *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment* Survey 32
7.0 Reflections and Recommendations 41
7.1 Reflections 41
7.2 Recommendations 44
7.2.1 Recommendations for Indigenous Governance, Self-Determination, and Leadership 44
7.2.2 Recommendations for Capacity, Resources, and Community-Led Monitoring 44
7.2.3 Recommendations for Protection of Health, Culture, Land, and Rights 45
7.3 References 45
Appendices 47
Appendix A. Purpose of Workshop Series – English 47
Appendix B. Purpose of Workshop Series – French 48
Appendix C. Participant Agenda – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments – English 49
Appendix D. Participant Agenda – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments – French 50
Appendix E. Survey Questions – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments 51
Appendix F. Participant Agenda – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment – English 56
Appendix G. Participant Agenda – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment – French 57
Appendix H. Survey Questions – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment 58

List of Figures

Figure 1. Graphic Recording by Aaron Russell (Conference Doodles) from the "*Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*" Workshop held on November 21, 2024……...**18**

Figure 2. Graphic Recording by Aaron Russell (Conference Doodles) from the '*First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*' Workshop held on April 10, 2025……**19**

Figure 3. Participants who attended the '*Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*' Workshop, held on November 21, 2024, and responded to the polling question, "How are industrial projects affecting your lands, health, livelihoods and spiritualities?". In word clouds, the larger the size of the text of the word, the more times various participants submitted that answer……..**20**

Figure 4. This pie chart illustrates the types of major projects that have occurred or are being considered for construction on respondents' traditional territories. Additional survey questions addressed the types of impacts associated with major projects. The most frequently selected categories were oil and gas, linear and transportation-related infrastructure, and federal/protected lands (14%), followed by hazardous waste (13%), marine and freshwater impacts (12%), renewable energy (11%), and mining (10%). Responses related to nuclear energy, agriculture and chemical use, land access and overuse, as well as other less frequently mentioned concerns (e.g., housing development, environmental health, and sovereignty), were grouped under the 'Other' category for clarity……..**23**

Figure 5. This bar chart displays the level of concern expressed by respondents regarding the impact of major projects on their traditional territories. The data shows that most respondents (30 out of 51) reported being extremely concerned, while 10 were moderately concerned and 8 were somewhat concerned. Only a small minority expressed being slight concerned (2), and none reported being not at all concerned……..……**24**

Figure 6. This pie chart illustrates the types of impacts on daily life and community by industrial and natural resource projects. Impacts on quality and quantity of traditional foods was the highest rated of all the concerns identified……...**25**

Figure 7. Respondents' perceptions of the increase in industrial developments or natural resource projects within their traditional territory over the past 10 years and 25 years……**28**

Figure 8. Level of respondent's participation in Health Impact Assessments based on the fields of expertise including health, environment, and other. The 'Other' category includes Directors and Management, Band Councillor, Finance, Indigenous Knowledge, Infrastructure, Automotive, Policy and administration, and Urban planning……**29**

Figure 9. Respondent's answers to the question "What types of large-scale industrial developments, natural resource, and infrastructure projects are affecting your traditional territory?". In word clouds, the larger the size of the text of the word, the more times various participants submitted that answered……**34**

Figure 10. Level of respondent's participation in HIA based on the fields of expertise including health, environment, and management. ……..……**36**

List of Figures Continued

Figure 11. Respondents identified aspects of the federal impact assessment process where they require additional support……...**37**

Figure 12. Respondents recommended actions that CIER or the federal government should take following the *First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series*……...**41**

List of Tables

Table 1. Number of respondents by region that responded to the *Health Impact Assessment Survey* which aimed to gather feedback on major natural resources and infrastructure projects in First Nations' traditional territories……...……..**21**

Table 2. Number of respondents by field that responded to the *Health Impact Assessment Survey* which aimed to gather feedback on major natural resources and infrastructure projects in First Nations traditional territories……..**22**

Table 3. Key themes and subthemes identified by respondents on needs for greater First Nations involvement in the federal impact assessment processes……**25**

Table 4. Number of respondents by region to the *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessments Survey* which aimed to gather feedback on large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects in First Nation's traditional territory to guide the development of a resource for First Nation health impact assessment……...……**33**

Table 5. Number of respondents by field of expertise to the *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessments Survey* which aimed to gather feedback on large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects in First Nation's traditional territory to guide the development of a resource for First Nation HIA……**33**

Table 6. Key themes of respondent's answers to "How are large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects effecting you or your First Nation (e.g., livelihood, cultural connection, individual health, community health)? Please consider past, present and future experiences"….**34**

Table 7. Key themes and responses for how respondents would like First Nation's traditional knowledge to inform federal impact assessments in consideration of traditional knowledge on individual health, community health, cultural practices, and ceremonies……**37**

Table 8. Key themes of respondent's identification of community's traditional knowledge informing the federal impact assessment when considering physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health……..**37**

Table 9. Key themes of respondents on whether traditional knowledge is adequately considered and respected in the federal impact assessment process and how it could be improved……**39**

Table 10. Key insights from participant discussions during the *First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series*……**43**

1.0 Glossary of Terms

Environmental Assessment (EA)
EA is a term defined under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012: An EA is a process to identify, predict and evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. This process happens before decisions about a proposed project are made (Government of Canada, 2023).

Exposure Pathways
As defined by Health Canada: Any means by which a human receptor can become exposed to a potential contaminant of concern in an environmental medium, and includes inhalation, ingestion, and dermal contact (e.g., inhalation, consumption of drinking water or country foods, irradiation) (Health Canada, 2023).

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
As defined by Health Canada: A HIA is a systematic, objective, and specialized process that can be used to assess the potentially positive and adverse effects of a designated project on well-being and health. It also highlights ways to maximize positive effects and minimize adverse effects on health (Health Canada, 2024).

As defined by the World Health Organization: A HIA is a practical approach used to systematically judge the potential health effects of a policy, strategy, plan, program or project on a population, particularly on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. HIA can help to identify the distribution of those effects within the population, generate evidence for proper action to avoid and mitigate sometimes unintended health risks, and promote health opportunities (World Health Organization, 2022).

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)
As defined by Health Canada: A HHRA is a risk assessment tool that is especially useful for determining the level of potential health effects, and for identifying appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring plans as well as for establishing remediation and/or risk management needs. The purpose of an HHRA is to provide an estimate of the potential risks to human health from all project phases and to respond to government and public concerns related to those projected effects (Health Canada, 2023).

Impact Assessment (IA)
As defined by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada: An IA is an assessment of the effects of a designated project that is conducted in accordance with the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019* (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2021).

Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA)
As defined by the First Nations Natural Gas Alliance: An IBA is a legally binding contract between a community that may be impacted by a project and the developer of that project (usually a company, but possibly a government organization), with the goal of sharing the benefits of that project as a means to redress its impacts on local communities (Baird et al., 2022).

Indigenous Led Impact Assessment (ILIA)
As defined by the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research: An ILIA is a process designed and conducted by Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) for evaluating potential land use impacts of a proposed development. IGBs determine what and how impacts are assessed and do this according to their own values, concerns, and priorities. For example, IGBs may choose to focus an ILIA on specific cultural, traditional use, or social values and the associated impacts of a project on their peoples and communities (Nishima-Miller & Hanna, 2022).

Pathways of Effects or Impact Pathway
As defined by the First Nations Major Project Coalition: An impact pathway is a generalized methodology for identifying the impact of a specific project related activity. Impact pathways typically include 3 main components: 1) The source: the activity or event that threatens a receptor, it may be the project as a whole, or a specific project element; 2) The pathway: the mechanism of change in an environment; and 3) The receptor: the cultural right or determinant of health that is affected (FNMPC, 2024).

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2.0 Background

In collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) has supported the development and facilitation of two virtual workshops. These workshops were designed to provide First Nations with information about the federal impact assessment (IA) process, with a focus on health and the social determinants of health. While the broader IA process was referenced throughout the workshop series, its primary focus was on health impact assessment (HIA).

The first workshop provided an overview of the federal IA process, including the role of HIA within the framework of the *Impact Assessment Act*, *2019* (IAA). It specifically examined the various ways in which First Nations can participate in federal IAs. The second workshop focused on First Nations' experiences in conducting HIAs, designing and implementing First Nations-led assessments, and developing guidance to support Indigenous communities undertaking such assessments.

The IAA repealed and replaced the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52). The primary objective of the IAA is to identify, prevent, and mitigate adverse environmental, health, social, and economic effects of designated projects under federal jurisdiction. While federal IAs may occur alongside provincial or territorial processes, efforts are made to coordinate and to minimize duplication. A federal assessment may be triggered by potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, such as impacts on fish and fish habitat (as defined under the *Fisheries Act*), changes to navigable waters (as defined under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*), or impacts on Indigenous Peoples' rights and health, social and economic conditions.

The IAA holds relevance for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, especially those whose lands, territories, or rights may be adversely affected by a proposed project. The extent of participation granted to Indigenous Peoples in a federal IA is determined by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, based on factors such as the project's geographical proximity to Indigenous communities, the nature and extent of potential adverse impacts on Indigenous rights and interests, and consultation requirements arising from section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. While IAA emphasizes early and "meaningful" participation, First Nations people and organizations, among other actors, have significant concerns about how this actualizes in real life.

The IAA represents a significant legislative tool for protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. A 2024 update to the Act brought it into closer alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). According to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (personal communication, March 13, 2025), the Government of Canada has expressed its commitment to implementing UNDRIP through the following measures:

- Carrying out IAs in a manner that emphasizes the need to seek free, prior, and informed consent;
- Maximizing Indigenous collaboration and partnership, including the advancement of regulations to enable agreements;
- Early, consistent, and meaningful engagement and participation through all phases of IA;
- Respect for Indigenous rights, culture, and jurisdiction;
- Mandatory consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in IA;
- Continually building Crown–Indigenous relations;
- Consideration of health, social, and economic factors, including impacts to women, youth, and Elders; and
- Consideration of any cumulative effects that are likely to result from a designated project in combination with other physical activities that have been or will be carried out.

The IAA requires the consideration of health, social, and economic factors as well as environmental factors, therefore, an assessment focused specifically on health is required. HIA can be used to evaluate the potential positive and adverse effects of a proposed project on the health and well-being of affected populations. According to Health Canada (2025), HIA considers not only the overall health outcomes of projects but also the distribution of these effects across different subpopulations, with a focus on equity and the vulnerabilities associated with socioeconomic status and other indicators of social disadvantage.

To support Indigenous participation in these assessments, Health Canada has developed the Interim Guidance on Health Impact Assessment, a publicly available resource designed to assist First Nations in evaluating the health implications of major projects (Health Canada, 2025). The document outlines key steps for conducting HIA, including definitions, analytical tools, access to peer-reviewed literature, and other methodological considerations. This guidance is intended to help First Nations assess both the potential benefits and the risks of proposed developments on their traditional territories.

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) can benefit Indigenous Nations by identifying both existing health vulnerabilities and strengths, among many other things.[1] HIAs are carried out by the proponent of a major project. Increasingly, however, Indigenous Nations are designing and implementing their own HIAs, drawing on methodologies grounded in their community norms and cultural protocols. This parallel approach can provide more robust data and more accurate predictions of the potential health impacts of a proposed project.

[1] Other benefits include the determination of baseline health information which can be used for short, medium and long-term planning.

First Nations undertaking federal IAs may wish to pay particular attention to the principle of “Free, Prior, and Informed Consent” (FPIC) and are encouraged to seek independent legal interpretations to determine how this concept applies to their specific circumstances.

3.0 Purpose and Objectives

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series: Summary and Outcomes
The First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series was designed to enhance First Nations' participation in federal IAs by providing vital information and supporting the development of relevant skills and capacities. An additional objective was to gather feedback from participants on barriers to participation, the types of impacts resulting from proposed major projects, and the resources necessary to facilitate more effective First Nations involvement in HIA.

It is important to note that participants in the workshop series were drawn from First Nations and First Nations organizations located between Alberta and Atlantic Canada. The series did not include participants from the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and British Columbia.

The workshops also aimed to strengthen First Nations' understanding of the federal IA process and available resources. This was achieved through presentations by government representatives (i.e., Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Indigenous Services Canada) and First Nations-led discussions. The first workshop, titled *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, had the following objectives:

1. To increase awareness of the federal IA process;
2. To provide information facilitating First Nations’ participation in HIA; and
3. To create a platform for First Nations to express their perspectives on industrial projects and to share their experiences with the federal IA process.

Following the first workshop, a survey was distributed to all participants and invitees and was made available on the CIER website. The purpose of the survey was to gather additional data on the types of industrial projects proposed within First Nations’ traditional territories among other things. This information contributed to the development of HIA resources and informed the discussion questions for the second virtual workshop. Participants were encouraged to disseminate the survey within their communities, including Chiefs and Council members, to promote broader dialogue.

The second workshop, titled *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*, focused on showcasing First Nations’ knowledge and lived experiences with the federal IA process. Presentations were delivered by representatives from Fox Lake Cree Nation and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia. The objectives of this session were:

1. To highlight First Nations' expertise in HIA;
2. To examine how First Nations' health has been, and continues to be, affected by large-scale industrial and other types of development projects; and
3. To gather perspectives on the support necessary to facilitate meaningful participation in federal IAs, particularly in relation to health.

Each presentation was followed by a discussion, ending with a one-hour group dialogue where participants shared experiences and insights on health and federal IAs. They also identified key supports needed for more effective involvement, including in decision-making processes.

Based on feedback from these workshops and other sources, CIER is in the process of developing resources aimed at enhancing meaningful First Nations participation in IAs. These resources are scheduled for release during the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

4.0 Participants

Invitations to both virtual workshops were distributed to First Nations communities and organizations located south of the 60th parallel, spanning from Alberta to Atlantic Canada. For the workshops, invitations were sent to health and environmental practitioners within First Nations communities and organizations. The target audience for the workshops was working level staff, not leadership.

A total of 36 individuals (out of 75 registrants) participated in Workshop 1, held on November 21, 2024, while 54 individuals (out of 85 registrants) participated in Workshop 2, held on April 10, 2025. Both workshops included participants from a wide range of communities across the specified regions of Canada.

5.0 Overview of Presentations

The virtual First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series was offered simultaneously in the English and French languages. Presentations were translated to French and live interpretation for French was available to participants.

5.1 Workshop 1: *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, held on November 21, 2024

The first virtual workshop of the First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series entitled *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, held on November 21, 2024, aimed to increase awareness of the federal IA process and provided an overview of how First Nations can participate in the process. The following federal departments and agencies presented at the workshop.

Overview of the Impact Assessment Act, presented by Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Diandra Stacey, Senior Trainer at Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, provided an overview of the IA process and Indigenous Participation in the process.

(Link to English presentation | Link to French presentation)

The Public Health Agency of Canada's Role in Federal Impact Assessment, presented by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Kelsey Lucyk, Manager of Intersectoral Partnerships & Initiatives at Public Health Agency of Canada, provided an overview of the Public Health Agency of Canada's role in federal IA, current projects, and an introduction to the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health.

(Link to English presentation | Link to French presentation)

Overview of Health Canada's Environmental/Impact Assessment Program, presented by Health Canada.

Tihut Asfaw, Senior Policy Advisor of Chemical & Environmental Health Management Bureau at Health Canada, and Pierre Pelletier, Public Engagement Specialist of Environmental Health Program at Health Canada, provided an overview of Health Canada's role in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*, and Northern Assessment Regimes, as well as the expertise and resources the department possess.

(Link to English presentation | Link to French presentation)

Impact Assessment and Health Service for First Nations*,* presented by Indigenous Services Canada.

Dr. Constantine Tikhonov, Section Head of the Impact Assessment and Health Service in the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada, highlighted a new set of regionally based services available to all First Nations, as well as research funding to develop a baseline of key community health and environment indicators.

(Link to English presentation | Link to French presentation)

5.2 Workshop 2: *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*, held on April 10, 2025

This workshop focused on First Nations' past and present experiences with the federal IA process and showcased First Nations' expertise in HIA. The following First Nation and organization presented:

(Link to English presentation | Link to French presentation).

Keeyask Generation Project, presented by Fox Lake Cree Nation, located in northern Manitoba.

Conway Arthurson, Former Councillor, and Dr. Raymond Neckoway, Associate Professor at Lakehead University, spoke to the cultural and social impacts from the Keeyask Generation Project in the Fox Lake Cree Nation's traditional territory. This hydroelectric project was approved in 2011 and assessed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 1992*.

Conway Arthurson and Dr. Raymond Neckoway, both members of Fox Lake Cree Nation, presented on the social, cultural, environmental, and health impacts of the Keeyask Generation Project. This project began in 2014 and consisted of the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Kitchi Sipi (Nelson River) in northern Manitoba. They emphasized that the Keeyask Generation Project cannot be viewed in isolation from the broader history of hydroelectric development within Fox Lake Cree Nation's traditional territory. This history began in the early 1960s with the construction of three major hydroelectric dams—Kettle, Long Spruce, and Limestone—as well as the development of three transmission line projects: BiPole I, II, and III.

The social, cultural, and health consequences of these projects have been both long-term and multigenerational. Among the harms experienced by Fox Lake Cree Nation members were acts of violence, including sexual assaults and murders, as well as displacement. These traumas were partly attributed to the large influx of construction workers. Other enduring impacts included environmental degradation, the loss of Inninu ("Cree") livelihoods, disruption of spiritual practices, and political marginalization. Combined with the trauma of residential schools and other colonial structures and practices, these projects contributed to profound personal and communal hardships, resulting in widespread mental and physical health challenges.

Despite these adversities, Mr. Arthurson and Dr. Neckoway emphasized the resilience of the Fox Lake Cree Nation people, as demonstrated by their continued presence and persistence on their ancestral lands. During negotiations surrounding the Keeyask Generation Project, Fox Lake Cree Nation maintained that the cumulative impacts of historical dam-building were central to any agreement concerning mitigation and compensation.

As a result, Fox Lake Cree Nation successfully negotiated several mitigation measures with Manitoba Hydro and the Province of Manitoba. These included a comprehensive social, cultural, and health impact study led entirely by the Fox Lake Cree Nation; the development of a cultural gathering centre; the implementation of camp-based amenities designed to reduce the movement of construction workers into the nearby township of Gillam, the site of one of Fox Lake Cree Nation's reserves; among many other things. These measures reflect Fox Lake Cree Nation's insistence that cumulative impacts must remain central to both recognition and redress in current and future projects that require federal IAs.

Fox Lake Cree Nation emphasized that the cumulative impacts of historical dam-building were integral to any discussion of mitigation and compensation related to future projects. This is true for any Indigenous Nation engaged in IAs, particularly where past developments have had significant effects on the people.

***Examining the Role of FNHA in Health Impact Assessment*,** presented by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), located in British Columbia.

Samson Wong, Sr. Manager of Environmental Public Health Services, and Dr. Meghan Brockington, Sr. Specialist Environmental Assessment, presented on FNHA's mandate, 7 directives, and explained the complex landscape of IA from a First Nations perspective within the British Columbia context. They discussed their work in clarifying their role, scope, and function in IA, as well as their efforts in developing resources and tools for First Nations.

6.0 What We Heard

The workshops were facilitated by CIER. CIER recorded participant discussions and feedback via handwritten notes, video and audio recordings, AI-generated summaries, and graphic recordings.The following section presents summaries of key insights shared by participants, which directly informed the recommendations outlined in Section 7.2 of this document.

6.1 Graphic Recordings

Graphic recorder Aaron Russell, from the company Conference Doodles, captured key themes raised by presenters and workshop participants. Graphic recordings offer a valuable method for visually depicting conversations and information shared during workshops and gatherings. Their benefit lies in documenting information in real time and succinctly summarizing complex concepts through visual representation. Graphic recorders can capture insights generated in virtual settings and do not require in-person venues. They may employ digital media or traditional "paper and pen" techniques to create a visual narrative of a session.

The workshops were structured to provide participants with the opportunity to view these graphic recordings in real time, allowing them to offer feedback on their accuracy and relevance, and to suggest modifications if the graphics did not accurately reflect audience sentiment.

Figure 1 (Page 18) illustrates key points shared by participants during the first workshop, including the following:

- Industrial projects create substantial impacts on the environment, wildlife, fish, and water systems;
- First Nations deserve meaningful participation with real decision-making authority over projects;
- Industrial projects profoundly affect the social, economic, and health dimensions of First Nations communities; and

Specific and longstanding circumstances necessitate trust-building between First Nations and the various federal government departments involved in IAs, as the process is hindered when trust is lacking.

Figure 2 (Page 19) illustrates key points shared by participants during the second workshop, including the following:

- Hunting, fishing, and trapping constituted the traditional way of life for Indigenous Peoples prior to the fur trade. Elders preserve and convey important stories about these cultural practices;
- The introduction of industrial projects, dams, and wage labour has caused significant social impacts and trauma within First Nations communities;
- There is hope that future generations will be spared from experiencing such trauma;
- Large-scale development has contributed to cultural erosion, including the loss of traditional diets and cultural practices among First Nations, noting that traditional diets are vital to Indigenous constructs of “health”;
- Participants recalled instances of men secretly attending ceremonies, where there is now a renewed call for greater ceremonial practice;
- A significant gap exists between federal IA policy and its practical implementation; and
- Funding remains a persistent concern and ongoing need.

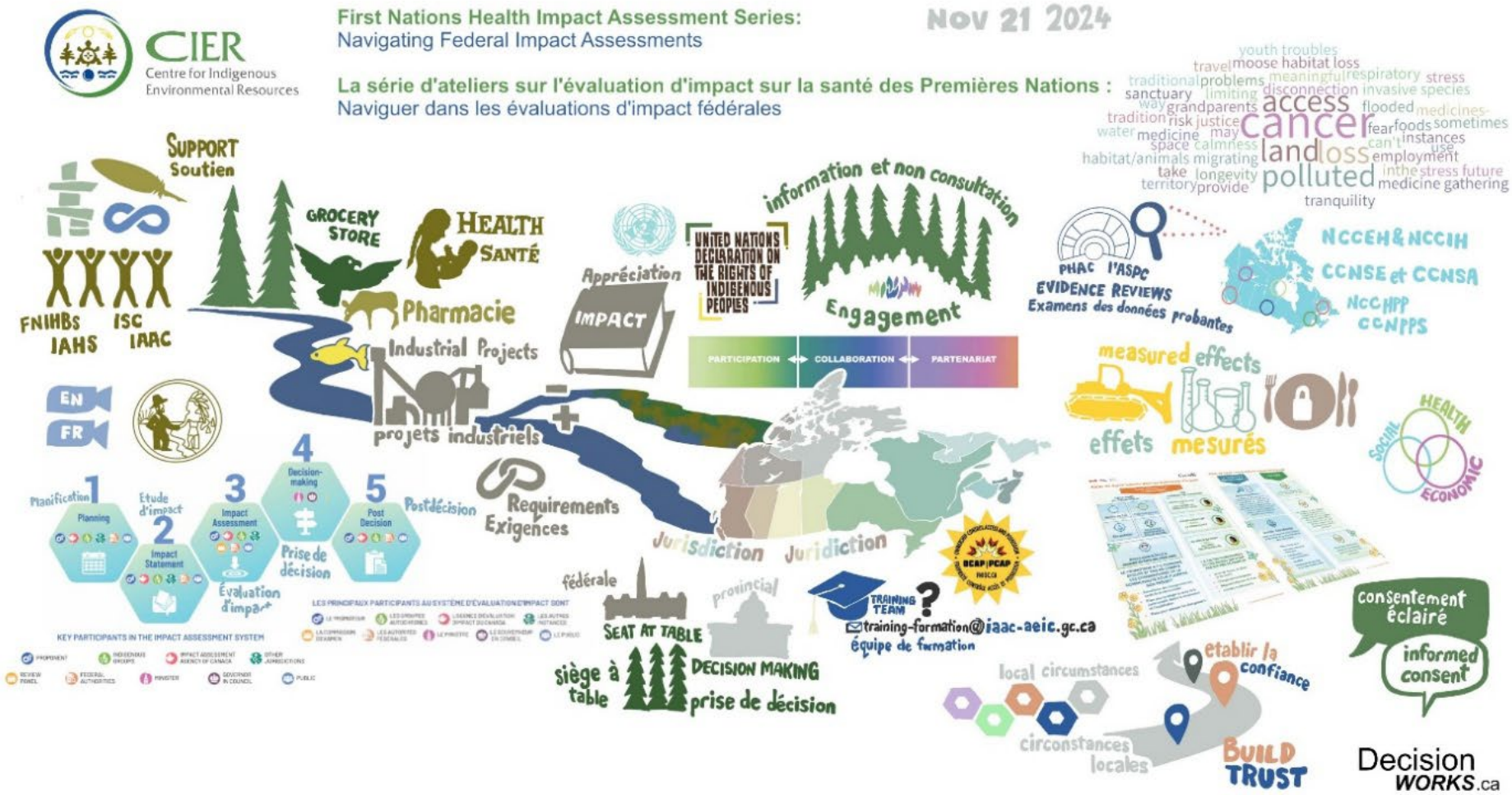

Figure 4. *Graphic Recording by Aaron Russell (Conference Doodles) from the "Navigating Federal Impact Assessments" Workshop held on November 21, 2024*

Figure 5. *Graphic Recording by Aaron Russell (Conference Doodles) from the 'First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment' Workshop held on April 10, 2025.*

6.2 *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments*, held on November 21, 2024

During this workshop, participants were invited to share their perspectives on the challenges, priorities, and supports necessary for meaningful participation in federal IAs.

Participants were also invited to respond to a predetermined question via Poll Everywhere, an online platform that collects and displays live audience feedback. Respondents could submit answers through the platform's webpage or by downloading an application accessible during the presentation. Responses were then visualized as a word cloud, where the frequency of each response is represented by the relative size of the text.

Figure 3 (below) presents participants' responses to the question: "How are industrial projects affecting your lands, health, livelihoods, and spiritualities?" The most frequently cited impact was "cancer," followed by "access." Other notable responses included "stress," "polluted food," and "loss of land use."

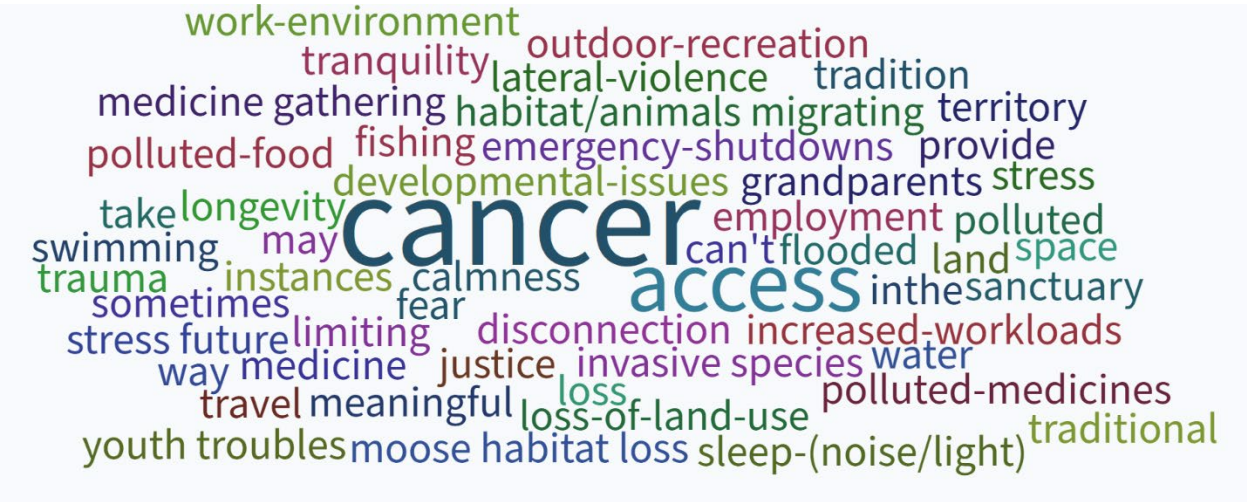

Figure 6. *Participants who attended the 'Navigating Federal Impact Assessments' Workshop, held on November 21, 2024, and responded to the polling question, "How are industrial projects affecting your lands, health, livelihoods and spiritualities?". In word clouds, the larger the size of the text of the word, the more times various participants submitted that answer.*

In addition to the word clouds, a survey was developed and distributed to attendees immediately following the workshop. The following section presents the key findings derived from the survey responses.

6.3 Health Impact Assessment Survey

CIER developed a 10-question survey (see Appendix E) to collect feedback on the types of major infrastructure projects proposed on First Nations' traditional territories. The survey responses partially informed the development of discussion questions for the subsequent workshop, *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessments*, held on April 10, 2025.

To gather additional data, the survey was also distributed to individuals who did not attend the first workshop but received an email invitation. This approach was feasible because the survey was general in nature and did not require workshop attendance for completion. The survey was disseminated via email to invitees and was also posted on the CIER website. The survey was made available in both English and French. A total of 51 individuals responded, with 49 completing the survey in English and 2 in French. As shown in Table 1, respondents represented six main regions, with the majority based in Ontario (37.3%), followed by Saskatchewan (25.5%).

Table 2. *Number of respondents by region that responded to the Health Impact Assessment Survey which aimed to gather feedback on major natural resources and infrastructure projects in First Nations' traditional territories.*

Region	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Alberta	7	13.7%
Saskatchewan	13	25.5%
Manitoba	5	9.8%
Ontario	19	37.3%
Quebec	6	11.8%
Atlantic	1	1.9%

As seen in Table 2 (Page 22), respondents represented a broad range of professional backgrounds. The most common were the fields of health (47%) and environment (23.5%) followed by directors and management (5.9%).

Table 2. *Number of respondents by field that responded to the Health Impact Assessment survey which aimed to gather feedback on major natural resources and infrastructure projects in First Nations traditional territories.*

Field of Expertise	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Health (Community, Family Well-Being, Nurse, Addictions and Mental Health, Social Services, Environmental Health)	24	47%
Environment (Ecology, Biology, Species at Risk, Lands Department, Water Resource, Climate Change, Urban Planning)	13	25.5%
Directors and Management	3	5.9%
Band Councillor	2	3.9%
Finance	2	3.9%
Indigenous Knowledge Keeper	2	3.9%
Other (Infrastructure, Automotive, Policy and Administration)	5	9.8%

Respondents identified various types of major projects that have historically occurred, are currently underway, or are proposed for construction on their traditional territories. Figure 4 (Page 23) illustrates the most reported types of projects, expressed as percentages. 14% of respondents identified oil and gas, linear and transportation infrastructure, and protected areas (including federal lands) as key concerns. This was followed by 13% who cited hazardous waste, and 12% who referenced marine and freshwater impacts. Renewable energy was mentioned by 11% of respondents, while 10% identified mining as a significant issue.

The remaining responses—such as references to nuclear energy, agriculture and chemical pollution, land access and overuse, and other less frequently mentioned concerns including housing development, environmental health, and sovereignty—were grouped under the category *Other* due to their lower individual frequencies. These responses indicate that energy and infrastructure development, particularly oil and gas projects, transportation corridors, and the management of federal or protected lands, are perceived as the most significant pressures on First Nations' traditional territories. Environmental concerns, including hazardous waste and the degradation of marine and freshwater systems, were also prominently identified. Notably, renewable energy and mining—industries often promoted as "green" or "sustainable"—were recognized as having substantial impacts. These findings suggest that even projects framed as sustainable development raise serious concerns regarding First Nations' land use, health, and rights.

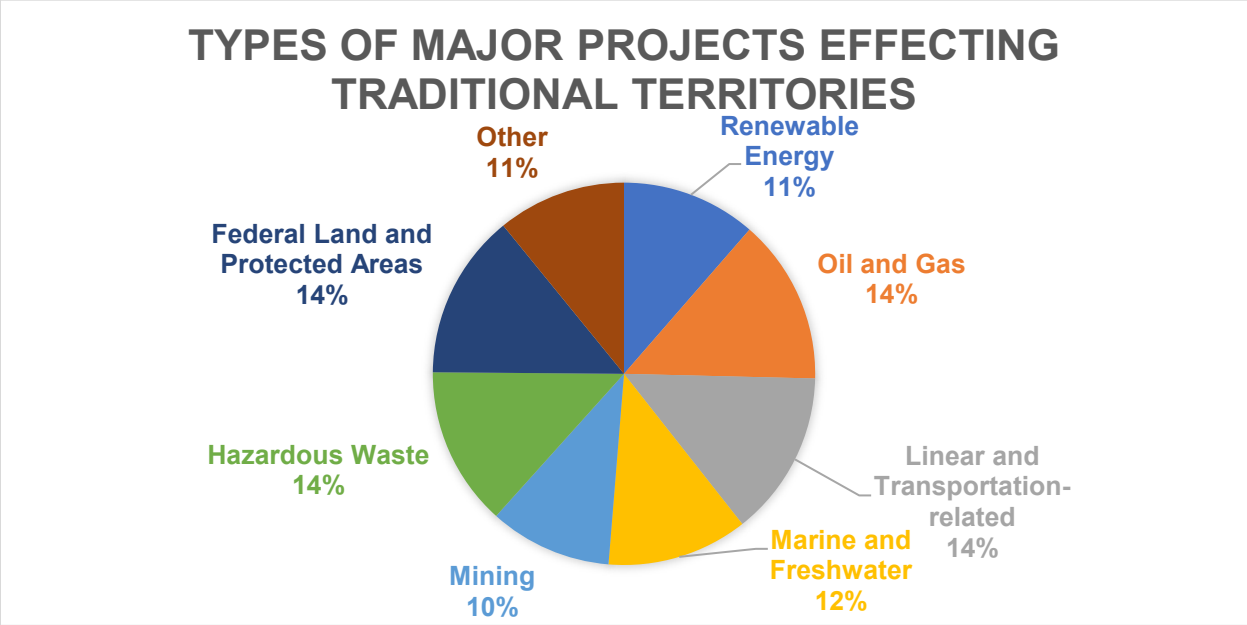

Figure 4. *This pie chart illustrates the types of major projects that have occurred or are being considered for construction on respondents' traditional territories. Additional survey questions addressed the types of impacts associated with major projects. The most frequently selected categories were oil and gas, linear and transportation-related infrastructure, and federal/protected lands (14%), followed by hazardous waste (13%), marine and freshwater impacts (12%), renewable energy (11%), and mining (10%). Responses related to nuclear energy, agriculture and chemical use, land access and overuse, as well as other less frequently mentioned concerns (e.g., housing development, environmental health, and sovereignty), were grouped under the* 'Other' *category for clarity.*

Respondents were also asked to rate their level of concern regarding major projects. As shown in Figure 5 (Page 23), of the 51 survey respondents, 30 individuals (58.8%) indicated that they are *extremely concerned*—by far the most common response. An additional 10 respondents (20%) reported being *moderately concerned*, while 8 individuals (16%) described their concern as *somewhat concerned*. Two respondents (4%) reported *slight concern*, and none selected *not concerned*.

These results indicate a high level of concern regarding the impacts of industrial projects on First Nations' people and territories. Nearly 80% of respondents expressed at least *moderate concern*. The complete absence of individuals who reported *no concern* underscores the widespread perception of risk associated with both historical and proposed developments. Even those who identified only slight or moderate concern acknowledged threats to health, land, and rights.

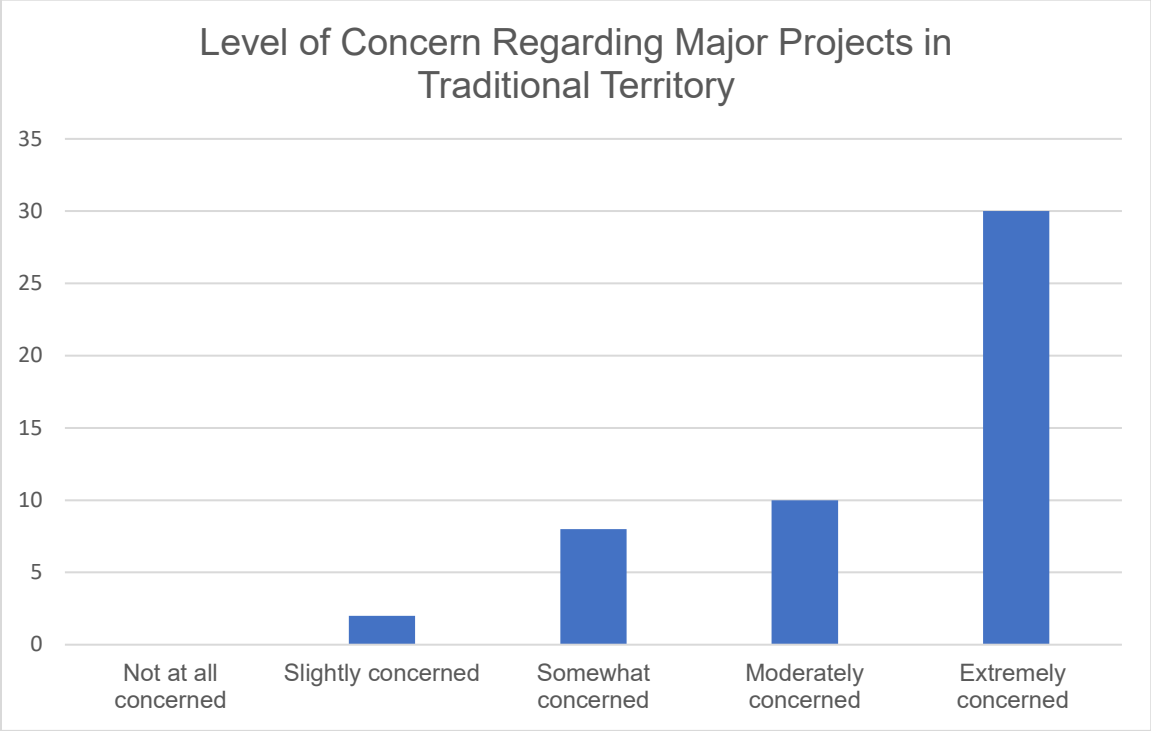

Figure 5. *This bar chart displays the level of concern expressed by respondents regarding the impact of major projects on their traditional territories. The data shows that most respondents (30 out of 51) reported being extremely concerned, while 10 were* moderately concerned *and 8 were* somewhat concerned*. Only a small minority expressed being* slight concerned *(2), and none reported being* not at all concerned.

Respondents were also asked to describe how major projects have affected, or continue to affect, the livelihoods and well-being of their communities. As shown in Figure 6 (Page 25), the most frequently cited concern related to traditional food systems: 44 respondents reported a decline in the *quality* of traditional foods, which was followed by 41 respondents who identified the lack of *abundance* of Indigenous foods as a major concern.

Additionally, 40 respondents highlighted the reduced ability to pass on culture and traditions to younger generations as a significant issue. Similarly, 39 individuals noted current challenges in practicing cultural traditions, while impacts on *mental* and *physical* health were cited by 42 and 36 respondents, respectively. Concerns about access to land (37 respondents) and water bodies (23 respondents) were also frequently mentioned.

The survey allowed respondents to provide open-ended responses to identify additional impacts not listed in the predefined options. These included: destruction of ancestral territories; environmental and resource degradation; loss of fauna and flora; fertilizer contamination—especially in waterways; and disruptions to individuals' spiritual connections to the land. Due to the diverse and specific nature of these comments, some were grouped under *other* during analysis.

Notably, no respondents selected *environmental degradation* as a predefined impact, suggesting either overlap with other categories or that this option was insufficiently differentiated. Only one respondent indicated that they—or their community—had experienced no impact from historical or current industrial projects.

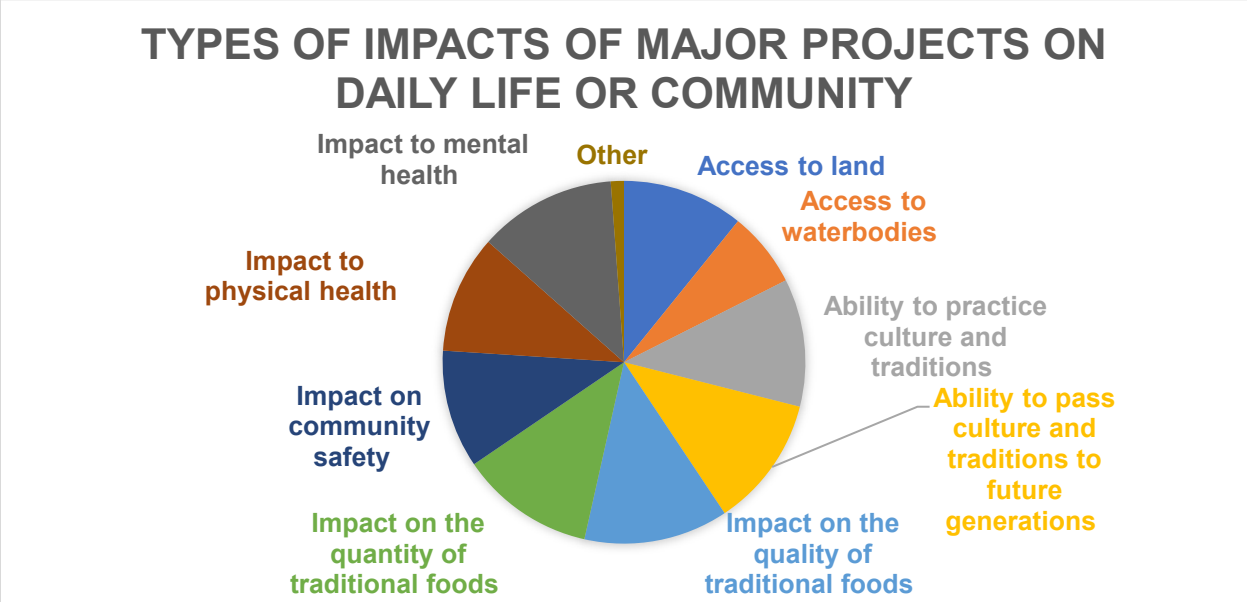

Figure 6. *This pie chart illustrates the types of impacts on daily life and community by industrial and natural resource projects. Impacts on quality and quantity of traditional foods was the highest rated of all the concerns identified.*

Table 3 (below) shows how respondents identified their needs in terms of participating in federal IAs. These were: health; capacity building; training; funding and financial support; governance; representation; decision-making; consultation and engagement; and environment, land protection, and project monitoring.

Table 3. *Key themes and subthemes identified by respondents on needs for greater First Nations involvement in the federal impact assessment processes.*

Theme	Subtheme	Respondents Answer
1. Capacity Building & Training	Training & Technical Skills	- Air quality monitors and training to calibrate them - Capacity building and training on IA processes
	Workforce & Resources	- Capacity, manpower, and space

		- All resources - Plain language documents
2. Funding & Financial Support	Project & Assessment Funding	- Capital dollars for IAs - Financial resources- $10,000 is too low
	General Support	- Funding for capacity - Full support and action (×2) - Funding - Funding for people to work in these areas
3. Governance, Representation & Decision-Making	Inclusion & Participation	- First Nations must have full representation at all tables - AFN leaders and federal process - A seat at decision-making tables
	Self-Determination & Respect	- Use our ways of knowing - Our own processes must be respected - Environmental racism is a human rights issue - Current level of respect is condescending; this must change
4. Consultation & Engagement	Early & Ongoing Consultation	- Proper consultation (×3) - Involvement from project submission phase - Timely and transparent communication - Community engagement opportunities - Collaboration with community - Participation from project planning onward
	Transparency & Mediation	- Representation appears biased - Federal process as a mediator - Members need unbiased information
	General Voice & Presence	- Need a voice

		- Be involved in future planning
5. Environmental & Land Protection	Land & Environmental Safeguards	- Protect our environment and land - Regulated farming practices - Land protection (French: Protection du territoire)
6. Health and Impact Monitoring	Health Data & Exposure Tracking	- Health-specific data, mapping, toxicology - Cumulative exposure review - Multi-pollutant health benchmarks
	Frameworks & Two-Eyed Seeing	- Examples of frameworks (French: exemple d'encadrement) - Legal & policy frameworks with FPIC - 2-Eyed Seeing (Indigenous and Western knowledge)

Respondents were asked to evaluate the following statement: *The frequency of industrial developments and natural resource projects in my traditional territory has increased within the past 10 or 25 years.* They were then asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with this statement. As shown in Figure 7 (Page 28), there was strong consensus among respondents that the frequency of industrial activity has increased over time.

For the 10-year timeframe, 16 respondents selected *agree* and 28 selected *strongly agree*, for a total of 44 affirmative responses. For the 25-year timeframe, 15 respondents selected *agree* and 26 selected *strongly agree*, totaling 41 responses. Very few respondents selected *neutral*—only four for the 10-year period and six for the 25-year period. One respondent disagreed with the 25-year statement, and no respondents selected *strongly disagree* for either timeframe.

Analysis of the data in Figure 7 suggests a widespread perception that major projects on traditional territories have increased, particularly within the past decade. This perception may reflect both the expansion of natural resource sectors in Canada over the past 25 years and the increased recognition of Indigenous rights and interests in Canadian law. These legal developments have contributed to greater Indigenous involvement in environmental oversight, including the identification of adverse effects, monitoring, and mitigation planning.

Overall, the data indicates a growing awareness among First Nations respondents of the cumulative and ongoing impacts of industrial development. Notably, only a few respondents mentioned any perceived benefits—such as short-term employment—suggesting that concerns about long-term cultural, environmental, and health consequences outweigh potential economic gains.

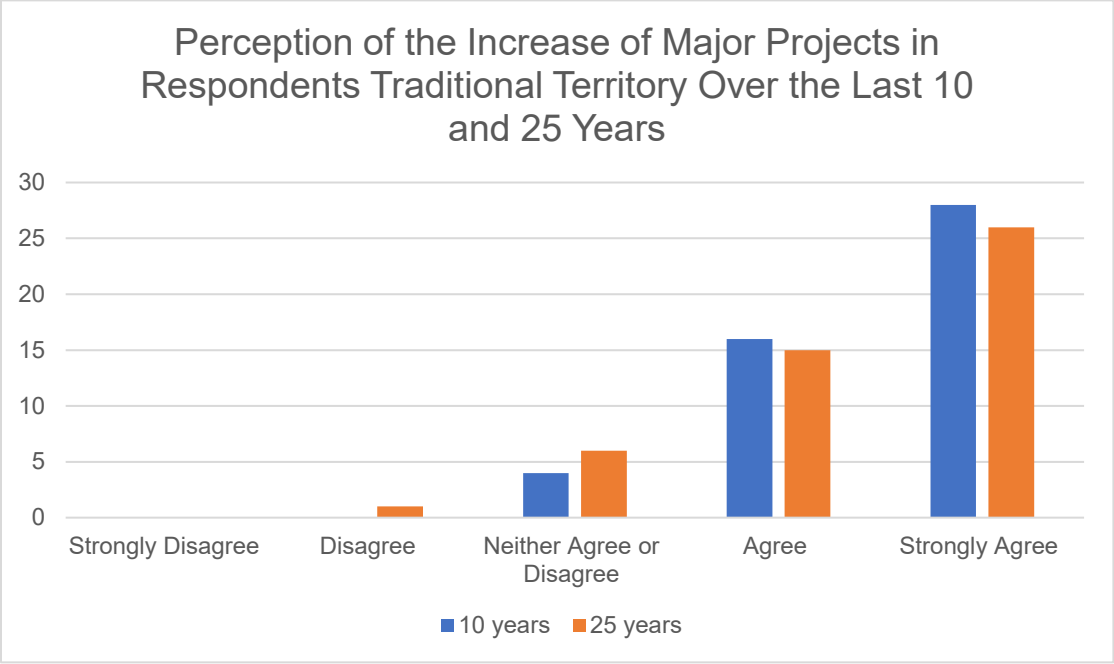

Figure 7. *Respondents' perceptions of the increase in industrial developments or natural resource projects within their traditional territory over the past 10 years and 25 years.*

Figure 8 (Page 29) presents the number of respondents who reported prior participation in a HIA. The majority indicated limited or no experience with HIA processes. Among those with *no prior participation*, thirteen had a background in health, four in environment, and nine in other professional fields. Of those with *prior experience*, five came from a background in health, two in environment, and four in other professional fields. Respondents who were *unsure about their participation* included four with a background in health, four in environment, and three in other professional fields.

Overall, across all professional groups, the most common response was non-participation in HIA, highlighting a gap in engagement with and/or access to health assessment processes.

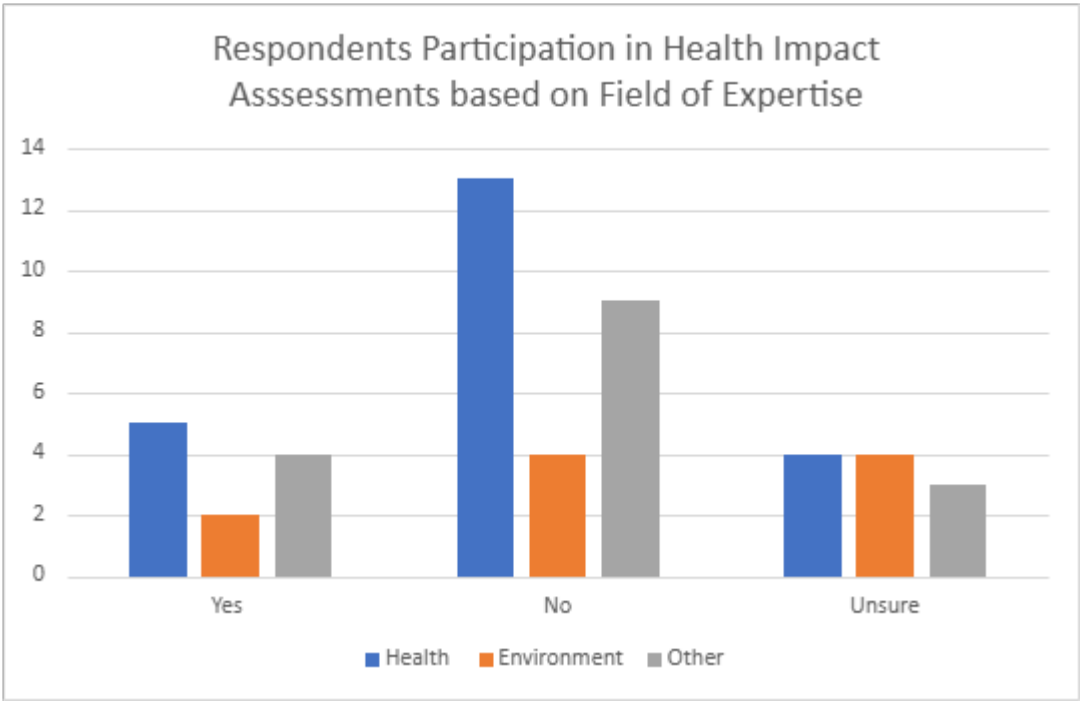

Figure 8. *Level of respondent's participation in Health Impact Assessments based on the fields of expertise including health, environment, and other. The 'Other' category includes Directors and Management, Band Councillor, Finance, Indigenous Knowledge, Infrastructure, Automotive, Policy and administration, and Urban planning.*

6.4 *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment* Workshop held on April 10, 2025.

The following section summarizes feedback received in response to the presentations by Fox Lake Cree Nation and FNHA in British Columbia. The discussion and comments broadly addressed the following themes:

- Bridging gaps between policy, practice, and communication;
- Limited access to health services;
- First Nations-led approaches to IA;
- Accommodation measures in HIA;
- The role of traditional ceremonies;
- Truth-telling and lived experience; and
- Candor for speakers discussing traumatic events.

Bridging Gaps Between Policy, Practice, and Communication

One participant sought clarification regarding the federal and provincial IA processes in British Columbia. FNHA explained that multiple legislative frameworks operate concurrently, including the federal IAA and the *British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act*, *2018*. While each law applies within its respective jurisdiction—federal for projects with national or transboundary implications, and provincial for projects within British Columbia—there are overlapping areas that

result in duplicated processes. This creates an added layer of complexity for First Nations seeking to participate meaningfully in IA procedures.

Although a 2020 cooperation agreement was established to align federal and provincial IA processes, in practice, First Nations must still engage with both levels of government to influence assessments effectively. This situation underscores the additional administrative and legal burdens that Indigenous communities face.

Indigenous rights are especially significant in IA processes in British Columbia, as the province is legally mandated to uphold the principles of the UNDRIP through its *Environmental Assessment Act* (Government of British Columbia, 2019). This legislative commitment is not consistently present across other provinces and territories, noting that the federal IAA was amended in 2024 to better align with UNDRIP principles. Despite these developments, there remains significant variability across Canadian jurisdictions in how Indigenous rights are recognized and implemented within IA frameworks.

Another participant requested clarification regarding the concept of FPIC. From the perspective of many First Nations peoples, the fact that the Crown retains final decision-making authority over project licensing—even if “meaningful” participation were to occur—undermines the notion of true “consent.” This reflects a fundamental inconsistency between Canadian law and the principles outlined in the UNDRIP. FNHA acknowledged this issue and further explained that FPIC is closely linked to the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP; see, for example, First Nations Information Governance Centre [FNIGC], 2020). However, no standardized process currently exists for putting either FPIC or OCAP into practice. FNHA noted that they are working to bridge the gap between policy and implementation by developing tools and resources that support First Nations in exercising their rights fully within complex legal frameworks.

Another participant reiterated their concern that Canada has not fully adopted the principles in UNDRIP particularly because of its exclusion of FPIC. They described Canada's IAA as "watered down" and queried whether any other countries have adopted the Declaration word-for-word.

Lack of Accessible Health Services

A participant from Northern Manitoba expressed concern about the limited accessibility of health services in northern regions, noting that many residents—particularly Elders—must travel long distances to Winnipeg for medical appointments. Such travel is physically and emotionally taxing and is often insufficiently supported. Specific challenges include 18-hour bus rides, unconfirmed accommodations, prolonged wait times at airports, and even instances of being stranded. The participant inquired whether similar issues occur in other regions and, if so, whether they are being addressed more effectively elsewhere.

In response, the FNHA acknowledged that similar challenges are present in northern and remote areas of British Columbia. These include both economic and health service disparities, each

necessitating distinct approaches tailored to specific local issues and needs. The FNHA emphasized its awareness that unique circumstances require context-specific strategies, highlighting that the challenges in Northern British Columbia may differ significantly from those in urban areas such as Metro Vancouver.

First Nations-led Approach to Impact Assessments

One participant requested further clarification on how FNHA advances the IA process in a manner that ensures it is led by First Nations. FNHA responded by noting that, historically, it has not been comprehensively involved in IAs. However, as its mandate expands to include IA activities, it has focused specifically on shifting the power dynamics from government and industry to First Nations in the following ways:

- Advocacy: FNHA advocates on behalf of affected First Nations communities, identifying gaps in engagement and processes within IA proposals;
- Collaboration: FNHA works directly with regional groups and communities to support the review of IA projects upon request;
- Resource Development: FNHA is developing toolkits and resources to help communities better understand IA processes and make informed decisions about their involvement;
- Nation-Driven Approach: A tiered support model is being developed, allowing each Nation to choose if, when, and how FNHA is involved, ensuring that the process is distinction-based and community-driven; and
- Capacity Building: Recognizing the lack of resources in legislation for First Nations to lead IA processes, FNHA aims to fill that gap by offering technical support, expertise, and tools to help communities meaningfully lead these processes.

Accommodation Measures in Health Impact Assessments

Another participant raised questions about how residual health impacts should be addressed within the IA process and in practice. Residual impacts refer to impacts that persist even after avoidance and mitigation strategies have been implemented. As a reference point, FNHA cited a commonly used three-tiered approach in IA: (1) avoidance—for example, choosing not to construct a highway; (2) mitigation—such as installing sound barriers to reduce noise from construction or traffic; and (3) accommodation—for instance, rerouting a highway to avoid culturally significant sites. FNHA noted, however, that accommodation is often difficult for industry to conceptualize and accept.

When health-related concerns emerge from proposed projects, FNHA supports First Nations in assessing potential risks and evaluating appropriate mitigation and accommodation measures. While the FNHA collaborates with organizations such as Health Canada and the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, it strongly emphasises direct engagement with First Nations. A central component of its approach is the principle of *Two-Eyed Seeing*, which values both western scientific knowledge and traditional Indigenous knowledge. This principle is meant to ensure that

strategies are culturally appropriate, scientifically grounded, and genuinely responsive to the health concerns of First Nations communities.

Traditional Ceremonies

One participant discussed the historical banning of traditional ceremonies in First Nations communities across Canada. Despite these prohibitions, individuals and communities actively resisted by holding ceremonies in secret. Hunting was often cited as a justification for leaving the reserve, allowing people to evade surveillance. Men generally found it easier to leave reserves unnoticed, while women relied on their ingenuity to conduct ceremonies discreetly. This individual recounted that they had attended covert sweat lodge ceremonies as a child during the 1950s and noted that the clandestine practice of ceremonial traditions continued until at least the 1980s. This speaker also shared a personal memory from approximately 1982, when they first encountered a teepee and were introduced to ceremonial protocols.

Another participant noted that, particularly within the past decade, there has been a renewed effort to reclaim and revitalize ceremonial practices, driven in part by youth leadership. In one community, a council resolution was recently passed—initiated by young people—to promote the resurgence of ceremonies. A youth committee now organizes related events, and the community frequently invites external knowledge keepers to share their teachings. Although funding and logistical barriers remain, the community is pursuing creative strategies to sustain cultural revitalization. The participant emphasised that the restoration of ceremony is of profound importance to First Nations and should be integrated into environmental assessment processes. Further, that ceremonial revitalization should be considered as a component of compensation for unmitigable impacts.

6.5 *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment* Survey

CIER developed a 10-question survey (see Appendix H) to collect feedback on the types of impacts and needs that First Nations identify as essential for meaningful participation in IA. The responses will inform the development of a resource designed to support Indigenous Nations throughout Canada in conducting HIA. Once completed, this resource will be made available on the CIER website.

The survey was distributed to all individuals invited to the *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment* workshop. It was shared via email and posted on the CIER website. As with the first workshop, the target audience comprised First Nations located south of the 60th parallel, and included health, environmental and other practitioners. The survey was available in both English and French. A total of eight individuals responded: seven completed the survey in English and one in French. As shown in Table 4 (Page 33), respondents represented four main regions, with the highest proportion based in Ontario (37.5%), followed by Saskatchewan (25%) and Manitoba (25%).

Table 4. *Number of respondents by region to the First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessments Survey which aimed to gather feedback on large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects in First Nation's traditional territory to guide the development of a resource for First Nation health impact assessment.*

Region	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Alberta	1	12.5%
Saskatchewan	2	25%
Manitoba	2	25%
Ontario	3	37.5%

As seen in Table 5 (below), respondents had professional backgrounds in the following three main areas: Environment (62.5%), Health (25%), and Management (12.5%).

Table 5. *Number of respondents by field of expertise to the* First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessments *Survey which aimed to gather feedback on large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects in First Nation's traditional territory to guide the development of a resource for First Nation HIA.*

Field of Expertise	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Environment	5	62.5%
Health	2	25%
Manager	1	12.5%

Respondents were asked: "What types of large-scale industrial developments, natural resource, and infrastructure projects are affecting your traditional territory?". The most common answers were mining and oil and gas. All responses were populated into a word cloud depicted in Figure 9 (Page 34).

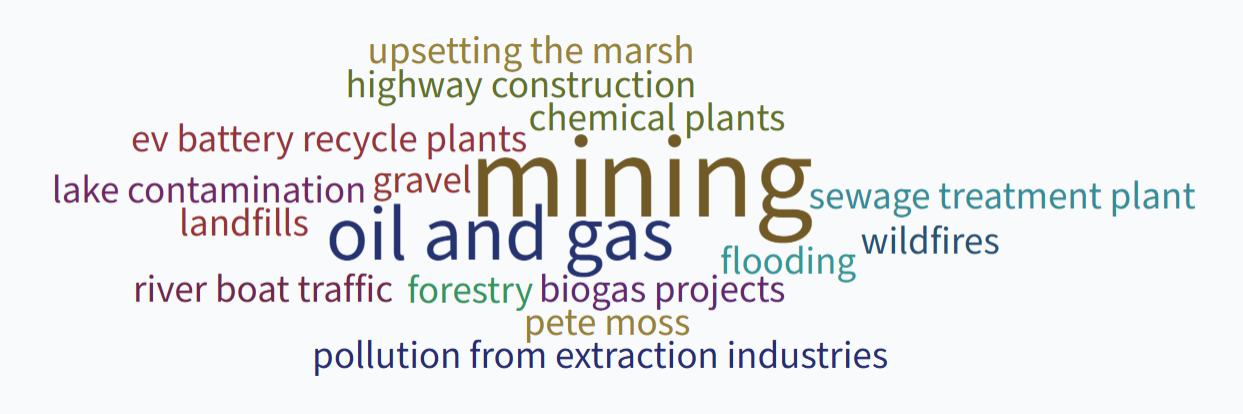

Figure 9. *Respondent's answers to the question "What types of large-scale industrial developments, natural resource, and infrastructure projects are affecting your traditional territory?". In word clouds, the larger the size of the text of the word, the more times various participants submitted that answered.*

The survey then asked respondents to describe how large-scale industrial, natural resource, and infrastructure projects have affected, and continue to affect, their livelihoods, cultural connections, and both individual and collective health. Table 6 (below) shows the key themes that emerged from this question. The most common answers included environmental stewardship and traditional knowledge; water systems and contamination; health inequity; access, infrastructure and transportation gaps; and industrial impacts and environmental disruption.

Table 6. *Key themes of respondent's answers to "How are large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects effecting you or your First Nation (e.g., livelihood, cultural connection, individual health, community health)? Please consider past, present and future experiences".*

Theme	Responses
Environmental Stewardship & Traditional Knowledge	- "The Nation has to find new areas to harvest medicine and food." - "It is still a way of life to live off the land. If the chain of life is interfered with, it affects everything—fish, animals, plants, trees, and then people. Everything is interconnected." - "It is our way and beliefs that we have a connection to everything."
Water Systems & Contamination	- "Water is all mostly contaminated because of some sort of extraction or activity."

	- “Potential chemical/fuel spills into our drinking water… it makes people afraid and [concerned about] long-term effects.” - “Moss cleans the water that enters Lake Winnipeg.”
Health Inequities & Access	- “Health in the North for individuals in and around our community are forgotten.” - “Individual health including physical and mental… it affected our community.” - “Nation members didn’t know anything about cancer and now [it is] a prominent ailment in the community.”
Infrastructure & Transportation Gaps	- “Transportation only exists for those who live in their communities, only if they have transportation provided for them.” - “All must travel to different places to receive what specialist they require.” - “No infrastructure taking place.”
Industrial Impacts & Environmental Disruption	- “We have a mining industrial company coming in and around our community… disruption around our environments and near communities.” - “Community is next door to three mines—at times they have spills that they don’t notify the community about.”

As shown in Figure 10 (Page 36), respondents—who work in the fields of health, environment, and management—were asked whether they had ever participated in a federal IA. None of the respondents indicated prior participation, although three were unsure. This suggests that even among professionals who might reasonably be expected to have experience with IA, there remains a clear need to enhance awareness and understanding of the process.

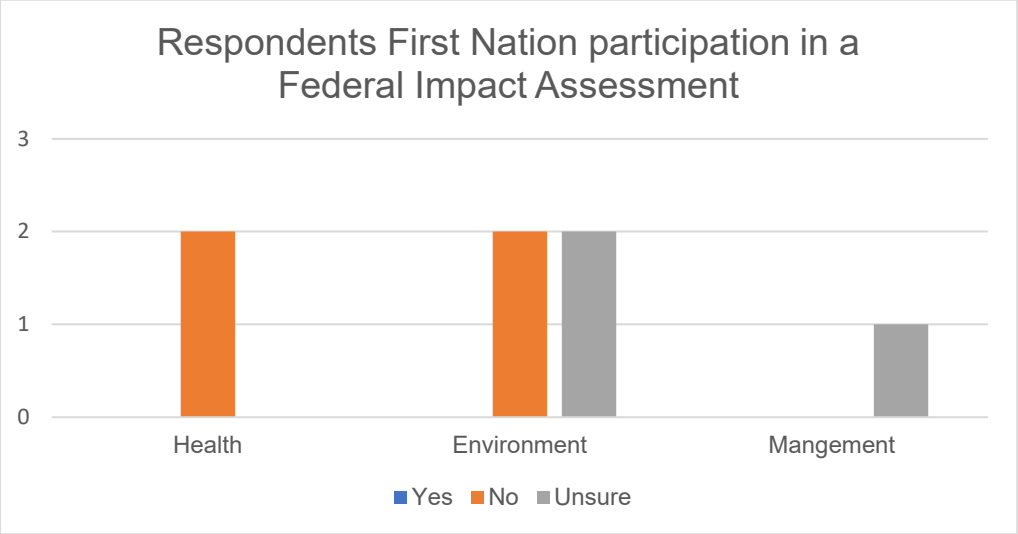

Figure 10. *Level of respondent's participation in HIA based on the fields of expertise including health, environment, and management.*

Figure 11 (Page 37) presents the areas of federal IA processes that First Nations identify as important and requiring of additional supports to deal with. The data reveal several key areas where further guidance, resources, or capacity-building may be beneficial.

The top three areas identified by six respondents were *Understanding potential Pathways of Effects*, *First Nations-led Health Impact Assessment*, and *Identifying Funding Opportunities*. These priorities underscore a clear need for greater clarity regarding the impacts of projects on human and environmental health, alongside enhanced support for Indigenous-led assessment processes and improved access to long-term sustainable funding.

Five respondents selected: *Scientific*, *Participation*, and *Identifying Partnerships for Human Health and Environmental Research* as being top priority to them. This indicates a demand for technical guidance, more inclusive First Nations engagement, and improved collaboration across all sectors.

Legal aspects were selected by four respondents, indicating a moderate need for support in this area. Only one respondent identified the *Indigenous Lens* as a priority requiring significant support, which may suggest either limited awareness or a need for greater emphasis on the integration of Indigenous perspectives throughout the IA process.

Overall, the findings indicate that respondents are seeking strengthened technical, financial, and participatory support within the federal IA process, along with enhanced Indigenous leadership and collaboration.

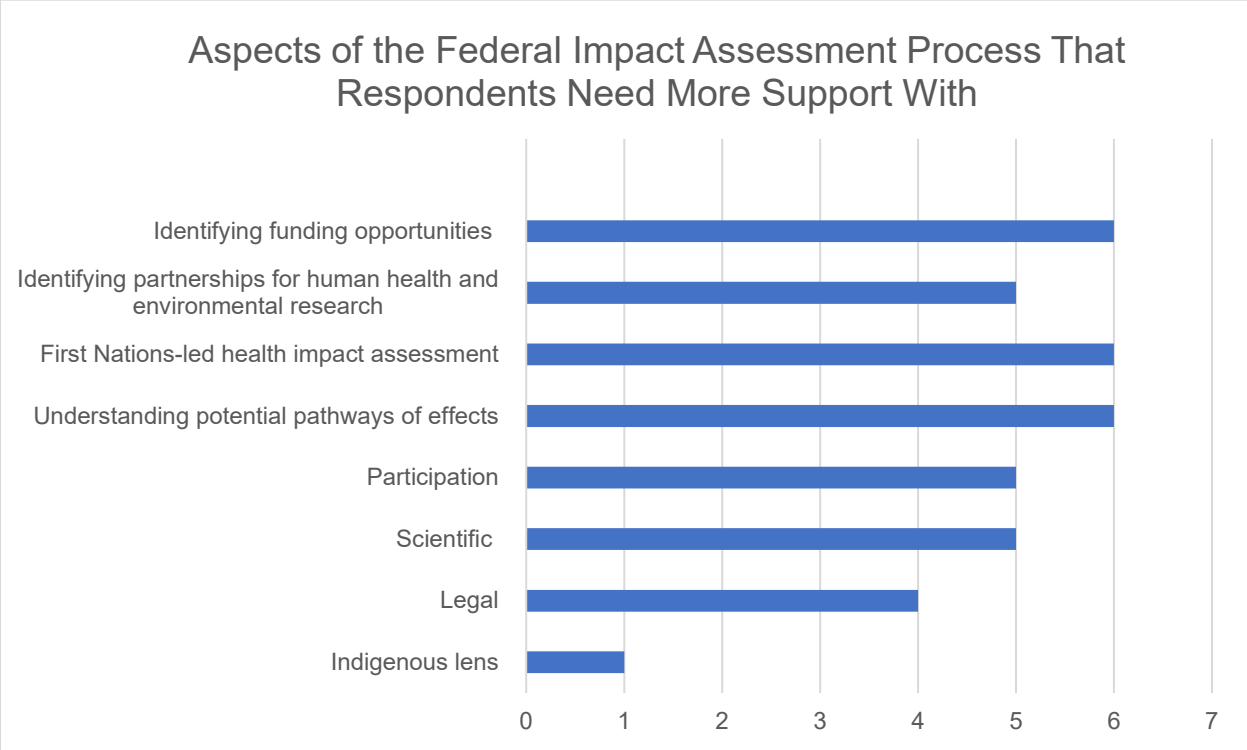

Figure 11. *Respondents identified aspects of the federal impact assessment process where they require additional support.*

Respondents were asked how they would like First Nations' traditional knowledge to inform federal IAs, particularly with respect to its relevance to individual health, community health, cultural practices, and ceremonies.

As summarized in Table 7 (below), the key themes identified included: *Holistic Well-Being and Indigenous Ways of Life*; *Cultural Continuity and Traditional Ecological Knowledge*; *Recognition, Representation, and Self-determination*; and the persistent issues of *Underrepresentation and Structural Exclusion*.

Table 7. *Key themes and responses for how respondents would like First Nation's traditional knowledge to inform federal impact assessments in consideration of traditional knowledge on individual health, community health, cultural practices, and ceremonies.*

Theme	Responses
Holistic Well-Being & Indigenous Ways of Life	- “The federal government needs to understand Indigenous folks have rights and are impacted mentally, spiritually, physically, emotionally. All four gives balance to a way of life.”

	- “There is a lot to learn and understand about Aboriginal culture and the way people live. It is more than can be explained in a few words.”
Cultural Continuity & Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)	- “We would like to voice how this would impact [us], but we will not share information related to our Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).” - “It’s best to pass the knowledge on for our future leaders.” - “Cultural practices” - “Hunting, trapping, and fishing— [these are impacted by] legislation and policy.”
Recognition, Representation & Self-Determination	- “An IA should be based on each individual’s thoughts and be able to work with the Federal Government to help them understand us as a people, culture, and the way we connect to the environment.” - “There needs to be a way for us to be able to work together, not just moving forward because the thought ‘I know what they need’ takes over.” - “In reality, it is the Aboriginal people who know what they need.”
Underrepresentation & Structural Exclusion	- “Our First Nation needs all. We are a Nation that is just starting out, but we are continuously forgotten.”

Respondents were asked to identify how their Nation’s traditional knowledge informed the federal IA when considering the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of their people. Table 8 (Page 39) indicates that while many respondents indicated that they had no direct involvement, traditional knowledge is a vital aspect of Indigenous peoples’ worldviews with specific importance to health, as defined by them.

Table 8. *Key themes of respondent's identification of community's traditional knowledge informing the federal impact assessment when considering physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.*

Theme	Responses
Limited Participation in Federal IAs	- "Not applicable, Nation was not involved in IA." - "Never participated." - "I am unaware [of participation in federal IA]."
Importance of Holistic Health	- "Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual [health] is very important to our people. When one of these is missing, it does not make us a whole healthy person." - "All of the above [physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health]."
Ongoing Communication with Industry	- "With the mining company within our area, we have updates in regard to there process of the mine and our land."

Respondents were asked whether traditional knowledge is adequately considered and respected within the federal IA process, and how its integration could be improved. As shown in Table 9 (below), key themes such as the *Lack of Recognition of Diverse Traditional Knowledge and Information* and *Communication Gaps* were identified as significant barriers to the meaningful inclusion and respect of local knowledge holders and their contributions.

Table 9. *Key themes of respondents on whether traditional knowledge is adequately considered and respected in the federal impact assessment process and how it could be improved.*

Theme	Responses
Lack of Recognition of Diverse Traditional Knowledge	- "The Elder of our community equates to someone getting a Doctorate in mainstream society. The Elder and his knowledge are not even recognized by western science." - "No! More respect and decision-making from First Nations with regards to Traditional Knowledge."

	- “Each First Nation is unique.”
Information & Communication Gaps	- “Give us more information and updates.” - “I am unaware of IAs and have not been involved in any.” - “We have to work with both sides in order to understand.”

Respondents identified specific actions that CIER and the federal departments responsible for IAs should undertake. As illustrated in Figure 12 (Page 41), the two most frequently recommended actions were *Participation in Community Engagements* and *Provision of Information on Funding*. A total of seven respondents selected these options, underscoring the importance of direct engagement with federal regulators, the need for localized discussions with government representatives, and the necessity of transparent information regarding financial support for First Nations' participation.

Five respondents identified *Information Resources*, *Guidebooks/Toolkits*, and *Assistance in Writing Responses to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada* as significantly important. This highlights the need for clear and accessible guidance to support communities in navigating the federal IA process.

Webinars were selected by four respondents, indicating a moderate interest in virtual learning opportunities. Visual and concise communication tools—such as *Infographics* and *One-pagers*—were chosen less frequently (by three and two respondents, respectively), suggesting that while not a primary preference, these formats may still serve as useful methods for conveying complex information in accessible ways.

Overall, the findings indicate that respondents value both active, on-the-ground engagement from government representatives and the availability of practical, user-friendly resources to support more meaningful participation in federal IA processes.

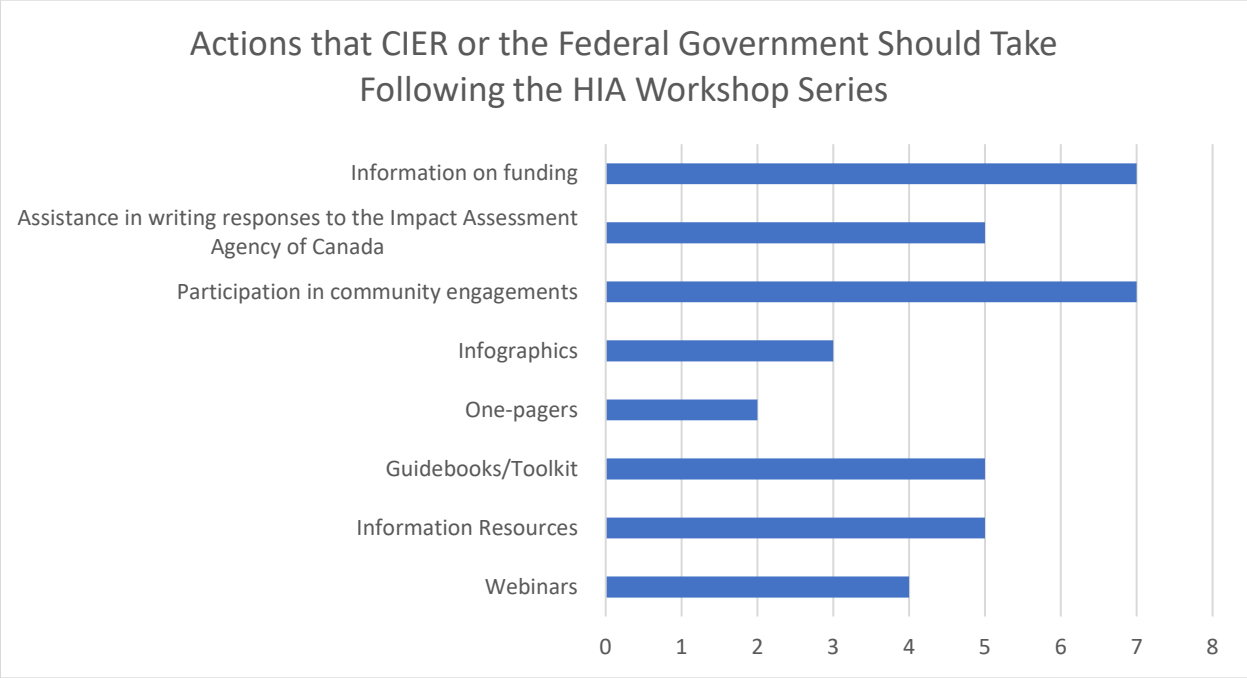

Figure 12. *Respondents recommended actions that CIER or the federal government should take following the First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series.*

7.0 Reflections and Recommendations

This section presents CIER's reflections and recommendations for enhancing First Nations' involvement in the federal IA process. These insights are based on feedback provided by participants during the workshops *Navigating Federal Impact Assessments* and *First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*. The recommendations are further informed by post-workshop surveys completed by participants and invitees. Together, these sources offer an assessment of current federal processes, identify key gaps, and highlight opportunities to strengthen Indigenous leadership and governance in both environmental and health assessments.

7.1 Reflections

The findings of this workshop series clearly demonstrate that current federal IA and HIA processes are not adequately meeting the needs of First Nations. While legislation such as the IAA affirms the federal government's obligation to "consult" First Nations, a significant gap remains between policy intent and practical implementation. Many First Nations report encountering:

- Exclusion from decision-making processes;

- Insufficient financial resources to support meaningful participation—for example, to hire legal, scientific, and technical experts (e.g., lawyers, biologists, economists, engineers) to review project-related studies;
- Limited human resources to conduct community-based research on social, health, environmental, and economic impacts, and to develop appropriate mitigation strategies or negotiate compensation for residual effects;
- The devaluation of traditional knowledge, which is often treated as inferior to western science;
- Limited authority to take a leadership role in assessing industrial projects that affect their lands, waters, health, and well-being; and
- Discomfort and frustration with the inability to veto projects deemed not in their best interest.

Participants emphasized that health must be understood holistically, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and environmental dimensions. However, existing IA and HIA frameworks predominantly apply a western lens, often neglecting cumulative, cultural, and intergenerational impacts. This failure to adequately incorporate Indigenous concepts of health, along with traditional knowledge systems and legal traditions, perpetuates systemic inequities and undermines the recognition and exercise of Indigenous rights.

Further, while provinces such as British Columbia have enacted legislation to align with the UNDRIP—notably through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*—federal IA processes lack equivalent legal obligations, particularly in relation to FPIC. As a result, First Nations communities are often required to engage with fragmented, colonial systems that offer limited authority over decisions with direct consequences for their lands, rights, and livelihoods.

Both the workshops and surveys revealed a deep mistrust of the existing system, rooted in histories of exclusion, systemic underfunding, and the persistent prioritization of government and industry interests over Indigenous rights and perspectives as well as the welfare of individuals. Participants emphasized that incremental changes to existing processes are inadequate. Instead, what is required is transformative, rights-based change that positions First Nations as leaders in IA, with full recognition of Indigenous laws, knowledge systems, and governance structures.

Several key insights were identified through the workshops and surveys, which are described in Table 10 (Page 43).

Table 10. *Key insights from participant discussions during the First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series.*

Key Insights	Description
High Levels of Concern in regard to Industrial Development	Many participants expressed significant concern about the health, cultural, and environmental impacts of industrial and resource development within their traditional territories. Nearly 80% reported moderate to extreme concern, emphasizing the importance of the issue.
Multiple Areas of Concern in regard to Industrial Development	Oil and gas projects were most frequently cited, but other sectors including hazardous waste, mining, transportation, and renewable energy were also identified as major concerns. This indicates that even "green" or alternative energy initiatives can pose serious risks if not planned in collaboration with Indigenous communities.
Interconnected Impacts	Industrial developments have negative effects on traditional food systems, access to land and water, and the ability to practice and pass on culture. These disruptions contribute to poor mental and physical health outcomes, reinforcing the need for holistic approaches to IA that center Indigenous understandings of health.
Call for Meaningful Indigenous Leadership in IAs	First Nation communities highlighted the need for IA and HIA processes to move beyond consultation toward First Nations-led assessments, First Nation-driven assessments, and decision-making.
Legislative Gaps Undermine Indigenous Rights	IA and HIA processes remain largely colonial in structure and control. Current federal legislation lacks clear mechanisms to operationalize FPIC. This creates a disconnect between policy intent and actual practice.
Mistrust of Current Systems	Many participants reported negative experiences with IA including exclusion, ineffective consultation, and culturally unsafe processes. This contributes to ongoing mistrust in in both government and IA.
Structural Change Is Needed	There is a widespread call for frameworks and IA and HIA processes to be restructured with Indigenous culture, laws, priorities, and authority at the center, rather than positioning First Nations as stakeholders or consultants.

7.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations aim to strengthen the role of First Nations in shaping the federal IA process, improving communication, clarifying how supports are more easily identified, and helping bridge the gap between policy commitments and practical implementation. CIER has developed 10 recommendations that could significantly improve First Nations participation in federal IA. These are broken down into the following topics: Indigenous governance, self-determination, and leadership; capacity, resources, and community-led monitoring; and protection of health, culture, land, and rights.

7.2.1 Recommendations for Indigenous Governance, Self-Determination, and Leadership

1. **Ensure First Nations Leadership in HIA Processes**
   HIAs must be First Nations-led to respect Indigenous rights, traditional laws, and holistic definitions of health. Communities must lead assessments from project inception through to decision-making.
2. **Operationalize FPIC and Decision-Making**
   Move beyond “check-box consultation” by operationalizing FPIC in a way that gives First Nations true decision-making power in the federal IA process. Develop clear, enforceable pathways for FPIC to be practiced at the community level, in federal legislation, and in assessment processes.
3. **Align Federal Legislation with UNDRIP**
   Amend the federal IAA to legally uphold UNDRIP principles, ensuring Indigenous governance and consent are embedded within IA and HIA processes.
4. **Guarantee First Nations Representation in Decision-Making Bodies for IA/HIA**
   Establish formal roles for First Nations within IA and HIA review panels, regulatory agencies, and decision-making authorities to ensure shared governance. Give the Indigenous Advisory Council of the new Major Projects Office greater authority in decision-making on major projects.

7.2.2 Recommendations for Capacity, Resources, and Community-Led Monitoring

5. **Invest in Capacity Building and Long-Term Infrastructure**
   Provide sustained funding and technical training to build First Nations capacity in health, environmental, and cultural assessments. This includes supporting local health monitoring systems and data sovereignty initiatives.
6. **Develop and Resource Community Health Monitoring Programs**
   Fund Indigenous-led, long-term community health monitoring programs to track health outcomes and cumulative impacts over time, guided by Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) principles and community priorities.
7. **Improve Transparency and Accessibility of Information and Supports**
   Government agencies must provide consistent, proactive, and culturally appropriate communication about IA and HIA services, funding opportunities, and processes.

Information should be accessible and available in plain language formats. Additionally, stronger collaboration with regional teams and community organizations will ensure Nations know how and when to access support.

7.2.3 Recommendations for Protection of Health, Culture, Land, and Rights

8. **Prioritize Environmental and Cultural Protections**
   Ensure IA and HIA frameworks explicitly address the protection of traditional food systems, ceremonial sites, land and water access, cultural practices, and physical health measures.
9. **Embed Indigenous Knowledge and Laws in IA/HIA**
   Incorporate Indigenous knowledge systems and laws within IA and HIA frameworks through Two-Eyed Seeing approaches, valuing both Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge equally.
10. **Address Cumulative and Intergenerational Health Impacts**
    Require IA and HIA processes to formally assess cumulative, long-term, and intergenerational health effects, ensuring a full assessment of potential harms to First Nation communities and future generations.

An additional question concerns whether the "protection" of existing conditions—such as health, livelihoods, and economic stability—is sufficient, given the well-documented disparities in health, socioeconomic status, and overall well-being between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in Canada. Addressing these disparities requires not only the prevention of further harm but also the proactive advancement of equity and justice in assessment processes.

Therefore, a fundamental question that federal IAs must address is how proposed industrial projects will advance social, economic, and environmental justice, rather than merely preserving the status quo.

The outcomes of the First Nations Health Impact Assessment Workshop Series reaffirm the urgent need for transformative change in how major projects are assessed in Canada. For First Nations communities, IA and HIA processes must serve as mechanisms to protect their lands, health, and cultures, while also upholding their right to self-determination in decision-making. The recommendations presented in this section reflect the priorities and insights shared by workshop participants. Moving forward, both CIER and the federal government must champion these necessary reforms, support community-led IA and HIA initiatives, and engage in genuine partnership with First Nations to reclaim and redefine environmental and health governance within their traditional territories.

7.3 References

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Appendices

Appendix A. Purpose of Workshop Series – English

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Series: Navigating Federal Impact Assessments

Hosted By:

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Overall Purpose of Workshop Series

The purpose of the workshop series is to prepare First Nations for the federal impact assessment process from a health and social determinants of health perspective by providing knowledge, tools, and resources. The workshop series will aim to bring forward First Nations perspectives on industrial developments in their traditional territories, and the interest of First Nations in developing capacity on health impact assessments. The workshop series will also strengthen First Nations knowledge of the federal impact assessment process and existing resources through government presentations and First Nations-led discussions. Based on the outcome of this workshop series, a resource will be developed by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) to assist First Nations in the field of health impact assessment.

Purpose of Workshop 1 – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments

Workshop 1 will provide an overview of the:

- Federal impact assessment process as described by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada;
- Public Health Agency of Canada's Impact Assessment Program;
- Health Canada's Impact Assessment Program; and
- Indigenous Services Canada's Impact Assessment and Health Service.

The purpose of Workshop 1 is to increase awareness of the federal impact assessment process and provide an overview of how First Nations can participate in the process. At the end of Workshop 1, participants will be given a list of discussion questions that will be used for a discussion in Workshop 2. Participants are encouraged to share the discussion questions with other members of their community who may have input, including the Chief and Council, or use them to facilitate discussions within their community. During Workshop 2, a discussion will be facilitated by CIER using these questions.

Appendix B. Purpose of Workshop Series – French

La série d'ateliers sur l'évaluation d'impact sur la santé des Premières Nations : Naviguer dans les évaluations d'impact fédérales

Animé par :

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Objectif général de la série d'ateliers

L'objectif de la série d'ateliers sur l'évaluation d'impact sur la santé des Premières Nations est de préparer les Premières Nations au processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact du point de vue de la santé et des déterminants sociaux de la santé en leur fournissant des connaissances, des outils et des ressources. La série d'ateliers vise à mettre l'accent sur les perspectives des Premières Nations concernant les grands projets de ressource et d'infrastructure, proposés sur leurs territoires traditionnels, et l'intérêt des Premières Nations pour le développement de capacité en matière d'évaluation d'impact sur la santé. La série d'ateliers est également destinée à renforcer les connaissances des Premières Nations sur le processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact et sur les ressources existantes grâce à des présentations du gouvernement et à des discussions menées par les Premières Nations. En fonction des résultats de cette série d'ateliers, le *Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources* (CIER) élaborera une ressource pour aider les Premières Nations dans le domaine de l'évaluation d'impact sur la santé.

Objectif de l'atelier 1 - Naviguer dans les évaluations d'impact fédérales

L'atelier 1 fournira une vue d'ensemble du processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact :

- Le processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact, tel que décrit par l'Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada ;
- Le programme d'évaluation d'impact de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada ;
- Le programme d'évaluation d'impact de Santé Canada;
- Le service d'évaluation d'impact et de santé de Services aux Autochtones Canada.

L'objectif de l'atelier 1 est de sensibiliser les participants au processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact et de leur donner un aperçu de la façon dont les Premières Nations peuvent participer à ce processus. À la fin de l'atelier 1, les participants recevront une liste de questions pour discussion qui serviront pour l'atelier 2. Les participants sont encouragés à partager ces questions avec d'autres membres de leur communauté qui pourraient avoir des commentaires, y compris le chef et le conseil, et/ou à les utiliser pour animer des discussions au sein de leur communauté. Le CIER animera une discussion en fonction de ces questions durant l'atelier 2.

Appendix C. Participant Agenda – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments – English

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Series: Navigating Federal Impact Assessments

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 12pm – 3pm Eastern

Hosted By: The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

CIER Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Agenda

Time	Topic
12:00 – 12:15 pm	**Land and Water Acknowledgment by Elder Barbara Neepinak**
12:15 – 12:25 pm	**Meeting Facilitation and Housekeeping**
12:25 – 12:30 pm	**Welcoming Remarks and Reflections** • Speaker: Jennifer Mercer, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada
12:30 – 1:25 pm	**Overview of the Impact Assessment Act** • Presenter: Diandra Stacey, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada • Description: The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada will provide an overview of the Impact Assessment Process and Indigenous Participation in the process.
1:25 – 1:40 pm	**Health Break**
1:40 – 1:55 pm	**The Public Health Agency of Canada's Role in Federal Impact Assessment** • Presenter: Kelsey Lucyk, Public Health Agency of Canada • Description: This presentation will provide an overview of the Public Health Agency of Canada's role in federal Impact Assessment, current projects, and an introduction to the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health.
1:55 – 2:20 pm	**Overview of Health Canada's Environmental/Impact Assessment Program** • Presenter: Tihut Asfaw and Pierre Pelletier, Health Canada • Description: This presentation will provide an overview of Health Canada's role in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*, and Northern Assessment Regimes, as well as the expertise and resources the department possess.
2:20 - 2:45 pm	**Overview of the Impact Assessment and Health Service** • Presenter: Constantine Tikhonov, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada • Description: This presentation will highlight a new set of regionally-based services available to all First Nations, as well as research funding to develop a baseline of key community health and environment indicators.
2:45 – 2:55 pm	**Closing Remarks**

Atelier 1 – Naviguer dans les évaluations d'impact fédérales

Jeudi 21 novembre 2024, de 12h à 15h (heure de l'Est)

Hébergé par:

Le Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

CIER
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Agenda

L'heure	Thème
12h00 - 12h15	Remarques préliminaires de l'aîné
12h15 - 12h25	Remarques préliminaires
12h25 - 12h30	Nuage de mots/Sondage en ligne
12h30 – 12h35	Allocution de bienvenue par Jennifer Mercer, Directrice EPHD
12h35– 13h30	Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada • Présentatrice: Meriem Eljaouhari
13h30 – 13h45	Pause santé
13h45 – 13h50	Nuage de mots/Sondage en ligne
13h50 - 14h15	Évaluation de l'impact et service de santé, Indigenous Services Canada • Présentateur: Constantine Tikhonov, Chef de section
14h15– 14h40	Santé Canada • Présentateur: Stephen Dolan's L'équipe
14h40 – 14h50	Remarques de clôture

Appendix E. Survey Questions – Navigating Federal Impact Assessments

Workshop 1

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Series: Navigating Federal Impact Assessments Survey Questions via JotForm

Description:
The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) requests that you complete the following survey. We expect the survey to take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. CIER will use the results of this survey to guide the development of discussion questions for *Workshop 2: First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment*, as well as to inform the development of a resource for First Nations communities and organizations in the field of HIA. Upon completion, the discussion questions and resource will be accessible via www.yourcier.org. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Leslie Agger, Project Manager, at lagger@yourcier.org.

Section 1 – Questions:

1. What First Nations community/organization are you representing?
    a. Textbox
2. What is your field of expertise?
    a. Textbox
3. What types of industrial developments/natural resource projects affect your traditional territory? Please consider historical, present and proposed projects, and select all that apply.
    a. Renewable energy
    b. Oil and gas
    c. Linear and transportation-related
    d. Marine and freshwater
    e. Mining
    f. Nuclear
    g. Hazardous waste
    h. Federal lands and protected areas
    i. Other. Please list other types of projects.
4. How concerned are you regarding the industrial developments/natural resource projects in your community and/or traditional territory?
    a. Not at all concerned
    b. Slightly concerned
    c. Somewhat concerned
    d. Moderately concerned
    e. Extremely concerned

5. How are industrial developments/natural resource projects affecting your daily life or community? Please select all that apply.
    a. Access to land
    b. Access to waterbodies
    c. Ability to practice culture and traditions
    d. Ability to pass culture and traditions to future generations
    e. Impact on the quality of traditional foods
    f. Impact on the quantity of traditional foods
    g. Impact on community safety
    h. Environmental degradation
    i. Impact to physical health
    j. Impact to mental health
    k. Other. [textbox – insert answer]
    l. I am/my community is not impacted.
6. What do you or your First Nations community/organization need to be more involved in the federal impact assessment process?
    a. Textbox

Section 2 – Statements:

7. The frequency of industrial developments/natural resources projects in my traditional territory has increased over the last **10 years**.
    a. Strongly Agree
    b. Agree
    c. Neither Agree nor Disagree
    d. Disagree
    e. Strongly Disagree
8. The frequency of industrial developments/natural resources projects in my traditional territory has increased over the last **25 years**.
    a. Strongly Agree
    b. Agree
    c. Neither Agree nor Disagree
    d. Disagree
    e. Strongly Disagree
9. My First Nations community/organization is involved in the federal impact assessment process (e.g., the review of a proposed industrial project).
    a. Every Time
    b. Usually (about 90% of the time)
    c. Frequently (about 70% of the time)
    d. Sometimes (about 50% of the time)
    e. Occasionally (about 30% of the time)
    f. Rarely (about 10% of the time)
    g. Never
    h. Unsure

10. I have participated in a Health Impact Assessment.
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Unsure

Atelier 1
Série sur l'évaluation de l'impact sur la santé des Premières Nations : Naviguer dans les évaluations d'impact fédérales
Questions de l'enquête

Description :
Le Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) vous demande de répondre à l'enquête suivante. Il vous faudra environ 5 à 10 minutes pour répondre à l'enquête. Le CIER utilisera les résultats de cette enquête pour guider l'élaboration des questions de discussion de l'atelier 2 : Expertise autochtone en matière d'évaluation des incidences sur la santé, de grands projets et d'effets cumulatifs, ainsi que pour informer l'élaboration d'une ressource pour les communautés et les organisations des Premières nations dans le domaine de l'évaluation des incidences sur la santé. Une fois terminées, les questions de discussion et la ressource seront accessibles via www.yourcier.org. Si vous avez des questions concernant l'enquête, veuillez contacter Leslie Agger, gestionnaire de projet, à l'adresse lagger@yourcier.org.

Section 1 – Questions:

1. Quelle communauté/organisation des Premières nations représentez-vous ?
    a. Textbox
2. Quel est votre domaine d'expertise ?
    a. Textbox
3. Quels sont les types de développements industriels/projets de ressources naturelles qui affectent votre territoire traditionnel ? Veuillez prendre en compte les projets historiques, actuels et proposés, et sélectionnez tous ceux qui s'appliquent.
    a. Énergies renouvelables
    b. Pétrole et gaz
    c. Linéaires et liés au transport
    d. Eau de mer et eau douce
    e. Exploitation minière
    f. Nucléaire
    g. Déchets dangereux
    h. Terres fédérales et zones protégées
    i. Autre.

4. Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous préoccupé(e) par les développements industriels et les projets d'exploitation des ressources naturelles dans votre communauté et/ou sur votre territoire traditionnel ?
    a. Pas du tout concerné
    b. Légèrement inquiet
    c. Assez inquiet
    d. Moyennement préoccupé
    e. Extrêmement préoccupé
5. Comment les développements industriels/projets de ressources naturelles affectent-ils votre vie quotidienne ou votre communauté ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent.
    a. Accès à la terre
    b. Accès aux masses d'eau
    c. Capacité à pratiquer la culture et les traditions
    d. Capacité à transmettre la culture et les traditions aux générations futures
    e. Impact sur la qualité des aliments traditionnels
    f. Impact sur la quantité d'aliments traditionnels
    g. Impact sur la sécurité de la communauté
    h. Dégradation de l'environnement
    i. Impact sur la santé physique
    j. Impact sur la santé mentale
    k. Autre. [textbox – insert answer]
    l. Je ne suis pas/ma communauté n'est pas touchée.
6. De quoi avez-vous besoin, vous ou votre communauté/organisation des Premières nations, pour participer davantage au processus fédéral d'évaluation des incidences ?
    a. Textbox

Section 2 - Déclarations :

7. La fréquence des développements industriels et des projets relatifs aux ressources naturelles sur mon territoire traditionnel a augmenté au cours des **dix dernières années**.
    a. Tout à fait d'accord
    b. Accorder
    c. Ni d'accord ni en désaccord
    d. Pas d'accord
    e. Pas du tout d'accord
8. La fréquence des développements industriels et des projets d'exploitation des ressources naturelles sur mon territoire traditionnel a augmenté au cours **des 25 dernières années**.
    a. Tout à fait d'accord
    b. Accorder
    c. Ni d'accord ni en désaccord

d. Pas d'accord
e. Pas du tout d'accord

9. Ma communauté/organisation des Premières Nations participe au processus fédéral d'évaluation des incidences (par exemple, l'examen d'un projet industriel proposé).
    a. Chaque fois
    b. Habituellement (environ 90 % du temps)
    c. Fréquemment (environ 70 % du temps)
    d. Parfois (environ 50 % du temps)
    e. Occasionnellement (environ 30 % du temps)
    f. Rarement (environ 10 % du temps)
    g. Jamais
    h. Incertain
10. J'ai participé à une évaluation de l'impact sur la santé.
    a. Oui
    b. Non
    c. Je ne sais pas

Appendix F. Participant Agenda – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment – English

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Series: First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 12pm – 3pm Eastern

Hosted By: The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

CIER
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Agenda

Time	Topic
12:00 – 12:15 pm	**Opening Remarks by Dr. Raymond Neckoway**
12:15 – 12:25 pm	**Meeting Facilitation and Housekeeping**
12:25 – 1:25 pm	**Fox Lake Cree Nation, Manitoba** • Presenter: Conway Arthurson, Former Councillor and Dr. Raymond Neckoway, Associate Professor at Lakehead University • Description: Fox Lake Cree Nation, located in northern Manitoba, will present on the Keeyask Generation Project. This hydroelectric project was approved in 2011 and assessed under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 1992.
1:25 – 1:35 pm	**Health Break**
1:35 – 2:00 pm	**First Nations Health Authority, British Columbia** • Presenter: Samson Wong, Manager, Sr. Environmental Public Health Services and Dr. Meghan Brockington, Sr. Specialist Environmental Assessment • Description: This presentation will introduce the FNHA Mandate and 7 Directives and will examine the complex landscape of Impact Assessments from a First Nations perspective within the BC context. We will also discuss our current work in clarifying our role, scope, and function in IA, as well as our efforts in developing essential resources and tools.
2:00 – 2:50 pm	**Discussion Period** • Facilitator: Leslie Agger, CIER • Description: First Nation participants will be invited to discuss their experiences and perspectives regarding the federal impact assessment process and supports required to meaningfully participate in the process.
2:50 - 3:00 pm	**Closing Remarks**

Appendix G. Participant Agenda – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment – French

Série d'ateliers sur l'évaluation d'impact sur la santé des Premières Nations : l'expertise des Premières Nations en évaluation d'impact sur la santé

Jeudi 10 avril 2025, 12 h à 15 h (heure de l'Est)

Organisé par : *The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources* (CIER)

CIER
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Agenda

Heure	Thème
12h – 12h15	**Mot d'ouverture par Dr. Raymond Neckoway**
12h15 – 12h25	**Animation de la réunion et consignes**
12h25 – 13h25	**La Nation crie de Fox Lake, Manitoba** • Présentateur : Conway Arthurson, ancien conseiller, et Raymond Neckoway, professeur agrégé à l'Université Lakehead • Description : La Nation crie de Fox Lake, située dans le nord du Manitoba, présentera le projet de centrale de Keeyask. Ce projet hydroélectrique a été approuvé en 2011 et évalué en vertu de la *Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale* de 1992.
13h25 – 13h35	**Pause santé**
13h35 – 14h	**La *First Nations Health Authority* (FNHA), Colombie-Britannique** • Présentateur : Samson Wong, gestionnaire principal, Services de santé publique environnementale, et Meghan Brockington, spécialiste principale, Évaluation environnementale • Description : Cette présentation introduira le mandat et les sept directives de la FNHA et analysera le cadre complexe des évaluations d'impact (EI) du point de vue des Premières Nations dans le contexte de la Colombie-Britannique. Nous discuterons également de nos travaux actuels visant à clarifier notre rôle, notre portée et notre fonction en matière d'EI, ainsi que de nos efforts pour développer des ressources et des outils essentiels.
14h – 14h50	**Période de discussion** • Facilitateur: Leslie Agger, CIER • Description : Les participants des Premières Nations seront invités à discuter de leurs expériences et de leurs points de vue concernant le processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact et le soutien nécessaire pour participer de manière significative au processus.
14h50 – 15h	**Remarques de clôture**

Appendix H. Survey Questions – First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment

First Nations Health Impact Assessment Series: First Nations Expertise in Health Impact Assessment
Survey Questions via JotForm

Description:
The Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is seeking expertise from health and environmental practitioners on their knowledge and experience with health impact assessment (HIA). CIER has created a short 10 question survey to gather feedback on large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects in your traditional territory. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. **Your responses will help guide the development of a resource to support First Nations south of the 60th parallel in health impact assessment.** When complete, this resource will be available via CIER's website (https://yourcier.org/first-nations-health-impact-assessment-series/). If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Leslie Agger, Project Manager, at lagger@yourcier.org.

Questions

1. What First Nation or organization do you represent?
2. What is your field of expertise?
3. What types of large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects are affecting your traditional territory?
4. How are large-scale industrial, natural resource and infrastructure projects effecting you or your First Nation (e.g., livelihood, cultural connection, individual health, community health)? Please consider past, present and future experiences.
5. Has your First Nation participated in a federal impact assessment? If so, please describe your experience (e.g., successes, challenges, supports required).
6. What aspects of the federal impact assessment process do you need more support with?
    a. Legal
    b. Scientific
    c. Participation
    d. Understanding potential pathways of effects
    e. First Nations-led health impact assessment
    f. Identifying partnerships for human health and environmental research
    g. Identifying funding opportunities
    h. Other
7. How would you like your First Nation's Traditional Knowledge to inform a federal impact assessment? Please consider Traditional Knowledge on individual health, community health, cultural practices, ceremonies, etc.

8. If your First Nation has been involved in a federal impact assessment, how has your community's Traditional Knowledge informed the assessment? Please consider physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.
9. Is Traditional Knowledge adequately considered and respected in the federal impact assessment process? If not, how can this be improved?
10. Following this workshop series, what actions should CIER, or the federal government take?
    a. Webinars
    b. Information Resources
    c. Guidebooks/Toolkit
    d. One-pagers
    e. Infographics
    f. Participation in community engagements
    g. Assistance in writing responses to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
    h. Information on funding
    i. Other

French Survey: https://yourcier.jotform.com/251066129338255

L'expertise des Premières Nations en évaluation d'impact sur la santé – Sondage

Description :
Le *Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources* (CIER) sollicite l'expertise de professionnels de la santé et de l'environnement concernant leurs connaissances et leur expérience en matière d'évaluation d'impacts sur la santé (EIS). Le CIER a créé un court sondage de 10 questions afin de recueillir des commentaires sur les projets industriels, d'exploitation des ressources naturelles et d'infrastructure à grande échelle sur votre territoire traditionnel. Le sondage prendra environ 10 minutes à remplir. **Vos réponses contribueront à l'élaboration d'une ressource destinée à aider les Premières Nations situées au sud du 60e parallèle à évaluer les impacts sur la santé.** Une fois terminée, cette ressource sera disponible sur le site web du CIER (https://yourcier.org/first-nations-health-impact-assessment-series/). Si vous avez des questions concernant le sondage, vous pouvez contacter Leslie Agger, chef de projet (lagger@yourcier.org).

Questions
1. Quelle Première Nation ou organisation représentez-vous ?
2. Quel est votre domaine d'expertise ?
3. Quels types de grands projets industriels, d'exploitation des ressources naturelles et d'infrastructure ont des impacts sur votre territoire traditionnel ?

4. Comment les grands projets industriels, d'exploitation des ressources naturelles et d'infrastructure vous touchent-ils, vous ou votre Première Nation (p. ex. moyens de subsistance, liens culturels, santé individuelle, santé communautaire)? Veuillez tenir compte de vos expériences passées, présentes et futures.
5. Votre Première Nation a-t-elle participé à une évaluation d'impact fédérale? Si oui, veuillez décrire votre expérience (p. ex. réussites, défis, soutien requis).
6. Dans quels aspects du processus fédéral d'évaluation d'impact auriez-vous besoin d'aide supplémentaire?

- Juridique
- Scientifique
- Participation
- Compréhension des impacts potentielles
- Évaluation des impacts sur la santé menée par les Premières Nations
- Identification de partenariats pour la recherche sur la santé humaine et l'environnement
- Identification de possibilités de financement
- Autre

7. Comment aimeriez-vous que les connaissances traditionnelles de votre Première Nation soient prises en compte dans les évaluations d'impacts fédérales? Veuillez tenir compte des connaissances traditionnelles relatives à la santé individuelle, à la santé communautaire, aux pratiques culturelles, aux cérémonies, etc.
8. Si votre Première Nation a participé à une évaluation d'impact fédérale, comment les connaissances traditionnelles de votre communauté ont-elles influencé cette évaluation ? Veuillez tenir compte de la santé physique, mentale, émotionnelle et spirituelle.
9. Les connaissances traditionnelles sont-elles suffisamment prises en compte et respectées dans le processus d'évaluation d'impact fédéral ? Si ce n'est pas le cas, comment cela pourrait-il être amélioré ?
10. À la suite de cette série d'ateliers, quelles actions le CIER ou le gouvernement fédéral devraient-ils poser ?

- Organiser des webinaires
- Développer des ressources d'information
- Développer des guides/des boîtes à outils
- Développer des documents d'une seule page
- Développer des infographies
- Participer à des activités communautaires
- Aider à la rédaction de réponses à l'Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada
- Informer sur le financement disponible
- Autres