Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

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National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP)
Objectives

To become familiar with:

• the theoretical foundation of HIA
• the HIA process and tools
**Rabaska liquid gas a go: Quebec**

Last Updated: Thursday, October 25, 2007 | 10:41 AM ET

CBC News

Opponents of a liquid natural gas terminal in Lévis, Que., say they'll use their legal means to stop the project, despite the government's overwhelming support for the future energy source.

Quebec's natural resources minister, Claude Béchard, publicly endorsed the Fugro Quebec Inc. project in July, saying it will create jobs and attract foreign investment.

The $840 million liquid natural gas plant, which will be built on a 164-hectare site along the St. Lawrence River, will have a production capacity of 780,000 cubic meters of natural gas per day.

The plant will be capable of supplying 780,000 consumers, including homes, businesses and industry, with natural gas.

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**Businesses turning to windmills for power**

Last Updated: Friday, February 6, 2009 | 1:25 PM AT

CBC News

With electricity costs rising steadily, some businesses on P.E.I. have taken charge of their own power, installing wind turbines on their property.

Trout River Industries has installed a 150-kilowatt wind turbine on its property, which provides the company with 20 per cent of its electricity needs.

Owner Harvey Stewart found his paybill wasn't the only expense that was growing. His electricity bill was on the rise as well, and it reached the point where he felt he could do better off the grid. Two 50-megawatt turbines now power his entire plant.

"I just see it as a good fit for P.E.I., especially when you can buy the stuff here in P.E.I. Local guys did it," Stewart told CBC News Thursday.
Determinants of Health

1. Income and social status
2. Social support networks
3. Education and literacy
4. Employment / working conditions
5. Social environments
6. Physical environments
7. Personal health practices and coping skills
8. Healthy child development
9. Biology and genetic endowment
10. Health services
11. Gender
12. Culture

Definitions: From the Gothenburg consensus to the latest proposal

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”


“HIA is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of the effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects”

Two roots

- **Environmental impact assessment**
  - Standardization of the process
  - Methodological rigour (science)

- **Health promotion**
  - Social determinants of health and equity (distributive effects)
  - Citizenship (empowerment)
  - Healthy public policies (Ottawa Charter)
HIA and the policy cycle

Re) Emergence of a problem

Evaluation

Perception of public and private problems

Agenda setting by the government

Adoption of a policy

Formulation of alternatives

Implementation

HIA core values

- Democracy
- Equity
- Ethical use of evidence
- Sustainable development
- Transparency
What HIA is not...

- An epidemiological study
- A subjective piece to prove a point
- A Human Health Risk Assessment
- A program evaluation
HIA applies to...

Policies,
Programs,
Projects

that are not intended to impact health but that have the potential to have negative AND/OR positive effects on health and health equity.
HIA process
A five-step standard process

- Screening
- Scoping
- Appraisal
- Reporting
- Evaluation and Monitoring
1. Reading the policy context:
   Is it possible to influence the draft policy?

2. Preliminary reading of the potential impacts:
   Positive and negative impacts?
   Significant enough to go further?
Scoping
Appraisal

- Community profile
- Literature review
- Consulting experts and stakeholders
- Consulting citizens

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Evaluation and monitoring

Before  During  After

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State of HIA practice

Source: Louise St-Pierre
Growing interest
A practice that has demonstrated its utility

- Allows users to structure actions
- Flexible (various approaches)
- Fosters the participation of stakeholders
- Influences the policy process and raises policy makers’ and stakeholders’ awareness about the broader determinants of health
- Interactive approach seems to give better results
### Different models of practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main purpose</th>
<th>Focus of the process</th>
<th>Relationship to “hard” evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide expert opinion</td>
<td>Scientific method</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy/empowerment</td>
<td>Citizen participation</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration of health in all policies</td>
<td>Intersectoral Dynamic</td>
<td>+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To find out more about HIA

www.ncchpp.ca

http://politiquespubliques.inspq.qc.ca
Screening
Which determinants?

Policy projects

- Housing
- Employment
- Physical activity
- Obesity
- Inequality
- Respiratory illnesses
- Trauma
Actions to be taken

Analysis of political context
Identification of determinants/effects on health

Yes, need for further analysis

No, effects known and managed
No, non-negotiable measures
No, negligible effects

Scoping

Report

Scoping
Planning the rest of the process

- On what
- For whom
- How
- By whom
- When
- How much
- Report ownership

Prioritize health issues
- Circumscribe the population
- Review, consultation, etc.
- Regional health authorities, local health authorities, Regional cooperation roundtable?
- Political agenda
- Resource sharing?
- Regional health authorities? Local health authorities?
- Regional cooperation roundtable? Municipality?
Figure 2: Possible causal pathways between a housing policy change and adverse health outcomes

- Introduction of market-related rents for state housing
  - Higher rents
  - Overcrowding
  - Stress

- Housing insecurity
  - Stress

- Reduced disposable income
  - Reduced access to health care
  - Poorer health

- Increase in people living in substandard housing
  - Increased in people living in damp and cold conditions
  - Increased in respiratory disease e.g., asthma, bronchitis

- Increase in infectious disease e.g., meningococcal disease
  - Poorer mental health

Possible causal pathways between a housing project and health outcomes

Project’s characteristics (Input)
- Snowmobile paths
- Street design: Lighting, Sidewalks, Connectedness
- Park and green space design
- Bike paths
- Regional road 139
- School transportation

Health Determinants (Output)
- Noise
- Security
- Active transport and physical activity
- Social capital

Health Impacts (Results)
- Trauma
- Cardiovascular and chronic diseases (e.g.: obesity)
- Mental health

- Appraisal
- Reporting
- Evaluation and Monitoring
## Recommendations depending on determinants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air quality</th>
<th>Water quality</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Social connectedness</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote active and public transport</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Actively promote active and public transport</td>
<td>Ensure an efficient public transport system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote energy efficient housing</td>
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<td>Strengthen local building codes</td>
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<td>Prioritize low cost housing that is highly efficient and sustainable</td>
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<td>Develop intersectoral working groups</td>
<td>Integrate water management with urban planning supported by cross sectoral steering group including Aboriginal communities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Involve residents in the design of new communities</td>
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Chapter 1: Logic Framework
Municipality and Health
Logic Framework
Health Determinants
Noise
Security
Active transport and Physical activity
Social capital
Chapter 2: Potential Impacts and Recommendations
• Snowmobile paths
Noise
Security
Recommendations
• Street design
Security
Active transport
Social capital
Recommendations
• Green space and park design
Physical activity
Social capital
Recommendations
• Bike paths (La route verte)
Security
Active transport
Recommendations
• Regional road 139
Security
Active transport
Recommendations
• School transport
Security
Active transport
Recommendations
Chapter 3: Prioritization of recommendations
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THANK YOU!

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