



# Health impact assessment (HIA)

A tool to promote and foster  
healthy public policy

Pre-symposium workshop

March 9th 2010

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Presentation by Louise St-Pierre and Marie-  
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Centre de collaboration nationale  
sur les politiques publiques et la santé  
National Collaborating Centre  
for Healthy Public Policy

*Institut national  
de santé publique*  
Québec 

# Healthy public policies

***HPPs allow for a better coordination in public policies in multiple sectors.***

***They aim to reduce inequities and address factors that determine wellbeing.***



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# 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 money to fight the project, despite the government's overwhelming support for the future energy project.

Quebec's natural resources minister, Claude Béchard, publicly endorsed the project. Given the province's urgent need for alternate sources of energy, he said on Wednesday.

The \$840 million liquid natural gas plant stirred concern among local environmentalists. They say it will destroy valuable farmland, pose safety risks along the Saint-Lawrence River and pollute the picturesque Quebec City port.

The project will also create about 500 jobs and will supply half the province's energy needs. "We took all of those things into consideration. And we believe this could be a good option for the province of Quebec, for security of the energy supply," he said.

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# Businesses turning to windmills for power

Last Updated: Friday, February 6, 2009 | 1:25 PM AT  
Comments 21 Recommend 23  
CBC News



Energy use at Trout River Industries has been growing. (CBC)

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 for the last decade been manufacturing live bottom trailers in Coleman, near Summerside. It's a technology that allows truck operators to load and unload material much more easily than with a conventional dump truck. The company has been growing steadily, and now has 41 employees.

Owner Harvey Stewart found his payroll 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.

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

# Food banks among busiest in Canada

By: Geoff Kirbyson  
18/11/2009 1:00 AM | Comments: 2

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Winnipeg Free Press - ONLINE EDITION

# Council rejects city-wide recycling contract

By: Bartley Kives  
24/02/2010 5:59 PM | Comments: 13

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WINNIPEG — City council has rejected a new city-wide recycling contract that would have seen 60-litre blue boxes replaced with 240-litre rolling carts this September.

In an unusual move, council voted 10-4 to defeat a 7.5-year, \$35 million recycling contract because a majority of council does not believe it will provide the city the flexibility to bring in a curbside compost plan.

on strategy that includes organics, it seems to me entering to do," said public works chairman Bill

modments or augmentations to the garbage served by rolling carts.

four of the recycling plan were Couns. S, Gord Steeves (St. Vital) and Justin Swar, who voted to defeat the contract. "I'm sure they do what's right for the city," he said.

Waste department to negotiate the extension of the plan is developed.

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# Loto-Québec to offer online gambling

Last Updated: Thursday, February 4, 2010 | 1:10 PM ET  
CBC News

Quebec's lottery corporation will launch its first online gambling service in September — a move Loto-Québec hopes will add millions of dollars to its coffers by 2013, the province's finance minister said Wednesday.

Allowing Loto-Québec to join the lucrative online market, beginning with poker and sports betting, could earn the province about \$50 million over the next three years, Finance Minister Raymond Bachand said. And he said he'd be happy if Loto-Québec could carve out an even larger segment of the estimated \$675-million online market than that.



Critics worry offering online gambling will be akin to a game of Russian roulette for gambling addicts.

"By increasing the offer, we increase the number of players," said Dr. Richard Lessard, the director of Montreal Public Health. "And as we increase the number of players, the number of players with

# Plan

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- 1) Definition of HIA
- 2) Theoretical basis
- 3) Current practices
- 4) The five steps of HIA



# The most common definition

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

*ECHP, WHO, 1999*



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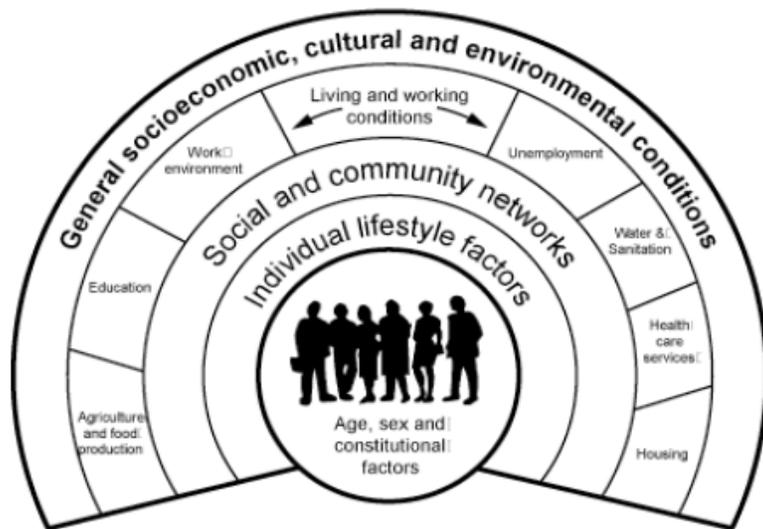
# Two roots

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- **Environmental impact assessment (EIA)**
  - Methodological rigour
  - Expert-driven
  
- **Health promotion**
  - Social determinants of health and equity (distributive effects)
  - Community participation (empowerment)
  - To translate into practice the Ottawa Charter strategy: healthy public policies and healthy environment



# Basic principles



**Democracy, sustainable development, equity, participation, ethical use of evidence**

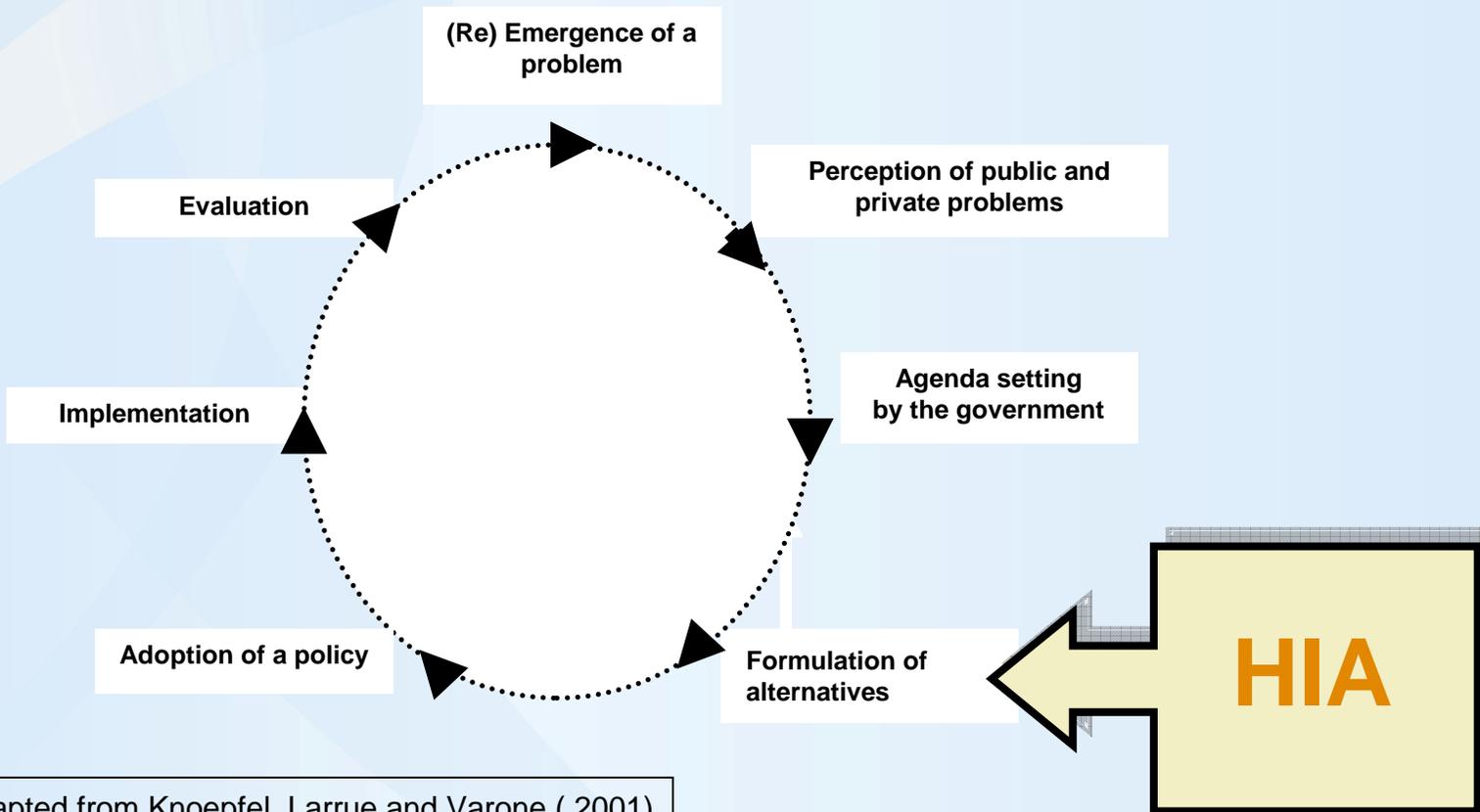
(Gothenburg Consensus)

- Reduction of social inequities in health
- Rigor and neutrality of the analysis
- Involvement of stakeholders and intersectoral parties
- Supporting the decision-making process
- Collective responsibility towards the population



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# HIA in the policy cycle

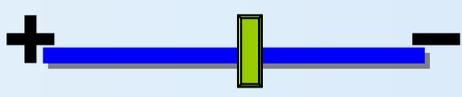


Adapted from Knoepfel, Larrue and Varone ( 2001)



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# Practice varies according to the purpose

Purpose	Focus	Use of scientific literature
Production of a public health advisory	Scientific approach	
Democracy/ <i>empowerment</i>	Citizenship/participation	
Raising awareness of decision-makers outside the health sector	Exchanges/ Intersectoral dynamics	



# Practice across the world



# The HIA Steps



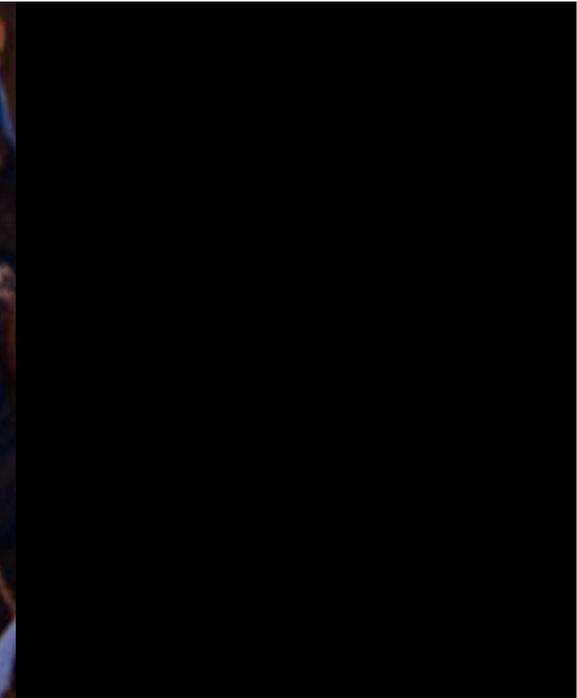
**1. SCREENING**

**2. SCOPING**

**3. APPRAISAL**

**4. REPORTING/  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5. EVALUATION**



**Annexe A**  
**Grille de dépistage**  
 processus d'évaluation d'impact sur la santé -

# Screening

ministère  
 Responsable du dossier :  
 Titre et numéro du projet de loi ou de règlement :

Déterminants de la santé*	Impact du projet de loi ou de règlement sur les déterminants de l'état de santé						Commentaires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Préciser la mesure de règlement à l'origine</li> <li>Décrire très brièvement</li> <li>Indiquer les groupes d'être touchés (entité etc.)</li> </ul>
	Très positif	Plutôt positif	Neutre	Plutôt négatif	Très négatif	N/A**	
Habitudes de vie et comportements	Saine alimentation						
	Non-tabagisme						
	Consommation modérée d'alcool						
	Pratique de l'activité physique						
Environnement social	Qualité du milieu de vie (ex.: famille, école, travail, services de garde, résidences pour personnes âgées)						
	Participation à la communauté						
	Élimination de la discrimination						
	Intégration sociale						
Environnement physique	Soutien à la poursuite des études						
	Qualité de l'eau, de l'air et du sol						
	Disposition sécuritaire des déchets dangereux						
	Sécurité des aménagements physiques						
	Sécurité (accès et qualité) des						

# Scoping



**Table 2: Scoping Checklist – choosing the appropriate level of HIA**

Question	Response to question	Guidance on the appropriate level of tool	More/less comprehensive
Is the magnitude of the proposed policy change significant?		The greater the magnitude of the policy shift, the more comprehensive the tool should be	
Are there significant potential health impacts of the policy change?		The greater the significance of potential health impacts, and the higher the degree of uncertainty, the more comprehensive the tool should be	
How urgent is the need for policy change?		If there is relatively high urgency then select a less comprehensive tool	
Is the timing critical in relation to other policies/issues?		If timing is critically linked to other policy developments and timeframes are short, select a less comprehensive tool	
What is the level of political interest?		The higher the level of political interest, the more comprehensive the tool should be	
Are there other political considerations?		The more politically complex the policy change is, the more comprehensive the tool should be	
What is the level of public interest?		The higher the level of public interest in the policy change, the more comprehensive the tool should be	
Is there a 'window of opportunity' for the work?		Consider if there is a window of opportunity (ie, timeliness, currency, political support). If the window is likely to close, select the less comprehensive tool	
What level of staff resource is available?		The higher the resource level, the more comprehensive the tool should be	

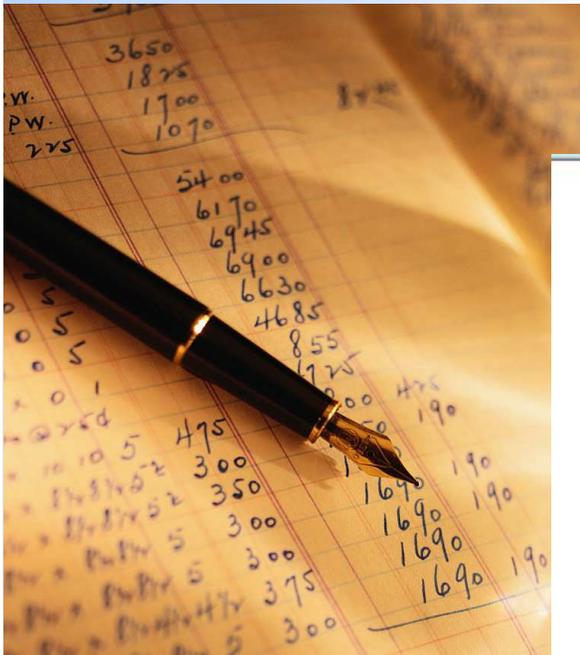


# Appraisal



# Recommendations

## Reporting



# Evaluation





**The choices we  
make are shaped  
by choices we  
have.**

**Help make the  
healthy choice the  
easy choice for  
everyone.**

**Questions?**



# HIA put into practice : a few ressources

- HIA Gateway-Association of public health observatories:  
[http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P\\_HIA](http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HIA)
- HIA connect (CHETRE-Centre for health equity training, research and evaluation): <http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/>
- National collaborating centre for healthy public policy (NCCHPP), section on HIA :  
<http://www.ncchpp.ca/627/Health+Impact+Assessment.htm>
- Policy and public health portal, section on HIA:  
<http://politiquespubliques.inspq.qc.ca/en/index.html>
- NCCHPP : HIA guides and tools:  
<http://ccnpps.ca/docs/HIAGuidesTools2008en.pdf>
- Swiss portal (in French) : <http://www.impactsante.ch/spip/>
- World health organization-HIA section: <http://www.who.int/hia/en/>