
Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada's Participation in the Ring of Fire Regional Assessment

Regional Assessment Working Group Meeting
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Purpose

To provide an overview of the role Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) can play in support of the Regional Assessment (RA) in the Ring of Fire (ROF) area

Health Canada's Role in Impact and Regional Assessments

- Health Canada participates as a federal authority by providing human health advice to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
 - Draws from information and knowledge from internal Health Canada program areas
 - In coordination with PHAC to provide the Agency's available knowledge on the social determinants of health
 - In collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada to provide advice relevant to Indigenous peoples' health

HEALTH CANADA IS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND

FROM THE DEVELOPER



FROM THE KEEPERS OF THE LAND



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



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

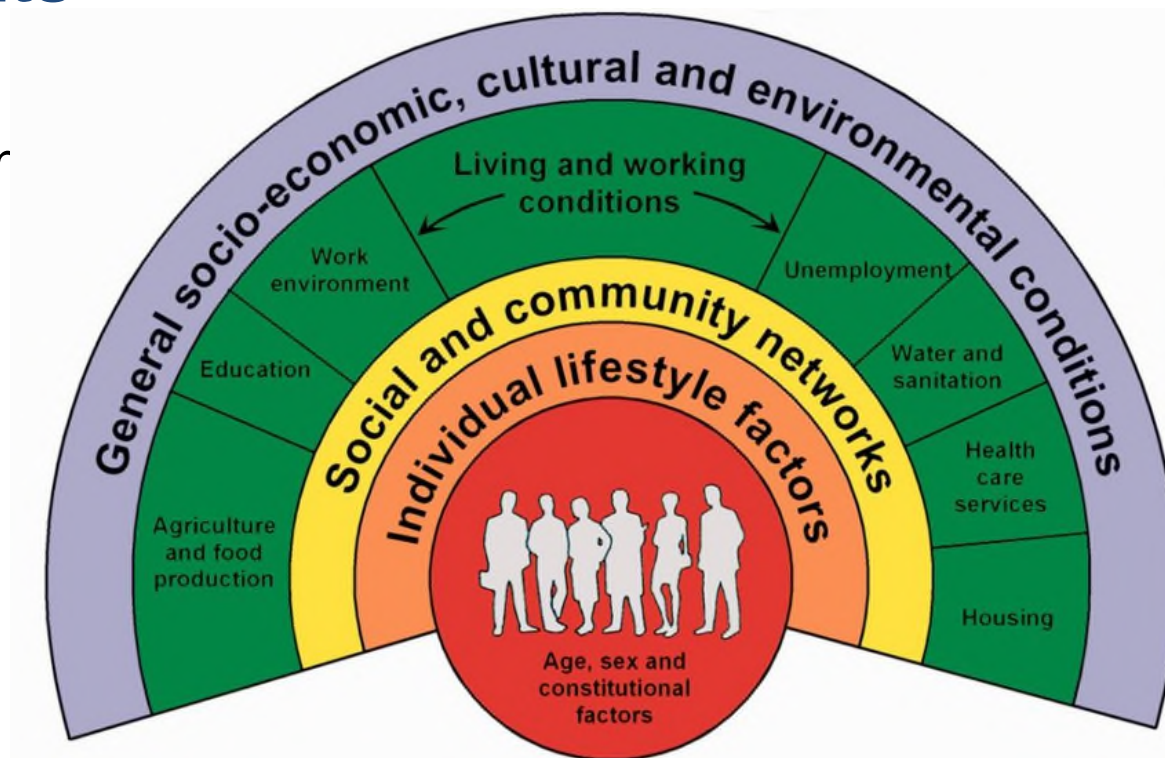
ARE THERE CHANGES OR ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN MISSED?



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

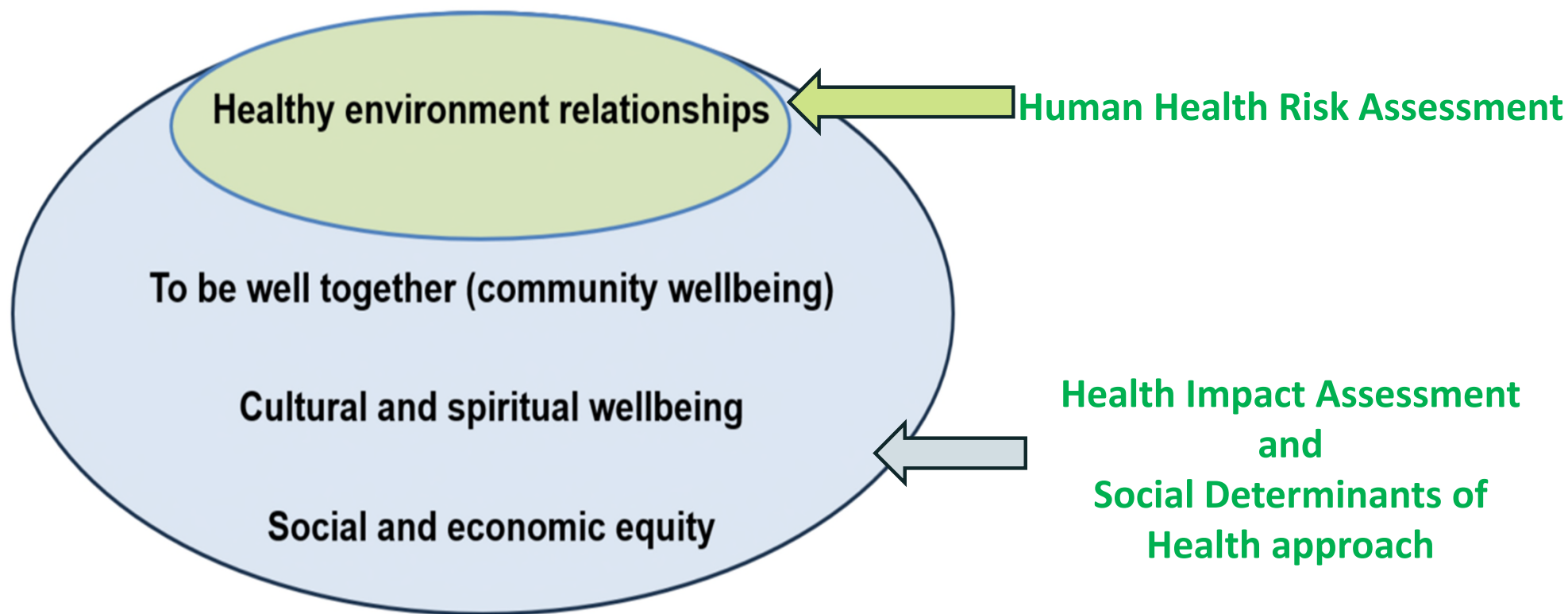
Public Health Agency of Canada's Role in Impact and Regional Assessments

- PHAC can provide advice or
 - Social determinants of health approach
 - Mental health
 - Health equity



Dalgren & Whitehead. 1991. Model of the Main Determinants of Health
<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/6472456.pdf>

Regional Assessment Priorities and Relevant Expertise



Regional Assessment Working Group. 2025. Terms of Reference for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area
<https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80468/160520E.pdf>

Health Canada's and Public Health Agency of Canada's Programs concerning the ROF Area

- HC and PHAC have programs that may be relevant to:
 - Substance Use (including consideration of mental health impacts)
 - Limited Access to Health and Social Services
 - Community Safety
- Most funding opportunities are currently closed but may open for applications in the future.

Additional Health Canada Initiatives concerning the ROF Area

- The Environmental Health Program conducts outreach activities that help Canadians and Indigenous communities understand potential health risks from air quality¹ and household chemicals².
- The Northern Ontario EnviroScreen Pilot³ is an online tool that brings together publicly available data on the natural and human environment.
- Under the HealthADAPT Program⁴, the Porcupine Health Unit studied how climate change affects the health of Indigenous peoples in northern Ontario.

1 Air Quality and Health: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/air-quality.html?utm_campaign=not-applicable&utm_medium=vanity-url&utm_source=canada-ca_airhealth

2 Healthy Home: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/healthy-home.html>

3 ON EnviroScreen: https://planetaryhealth.shinyapps.io/ON_Enviro_Screen/

4 HealthADAPT: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/health-adapt.html>

Questions?



Contact Information

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