

# Health in All Policies for Métis Health?

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# National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

## Our mandate

Support public health actors in their efforts to develop and promote healthy public policies

## Our projects

- Analyzing Public Policies
- Climate Change
- Health in All Policies
- Health Inequalities
- Health Impact Assessment



• Knowledge Sharing

• Population Mental Health and Wellness



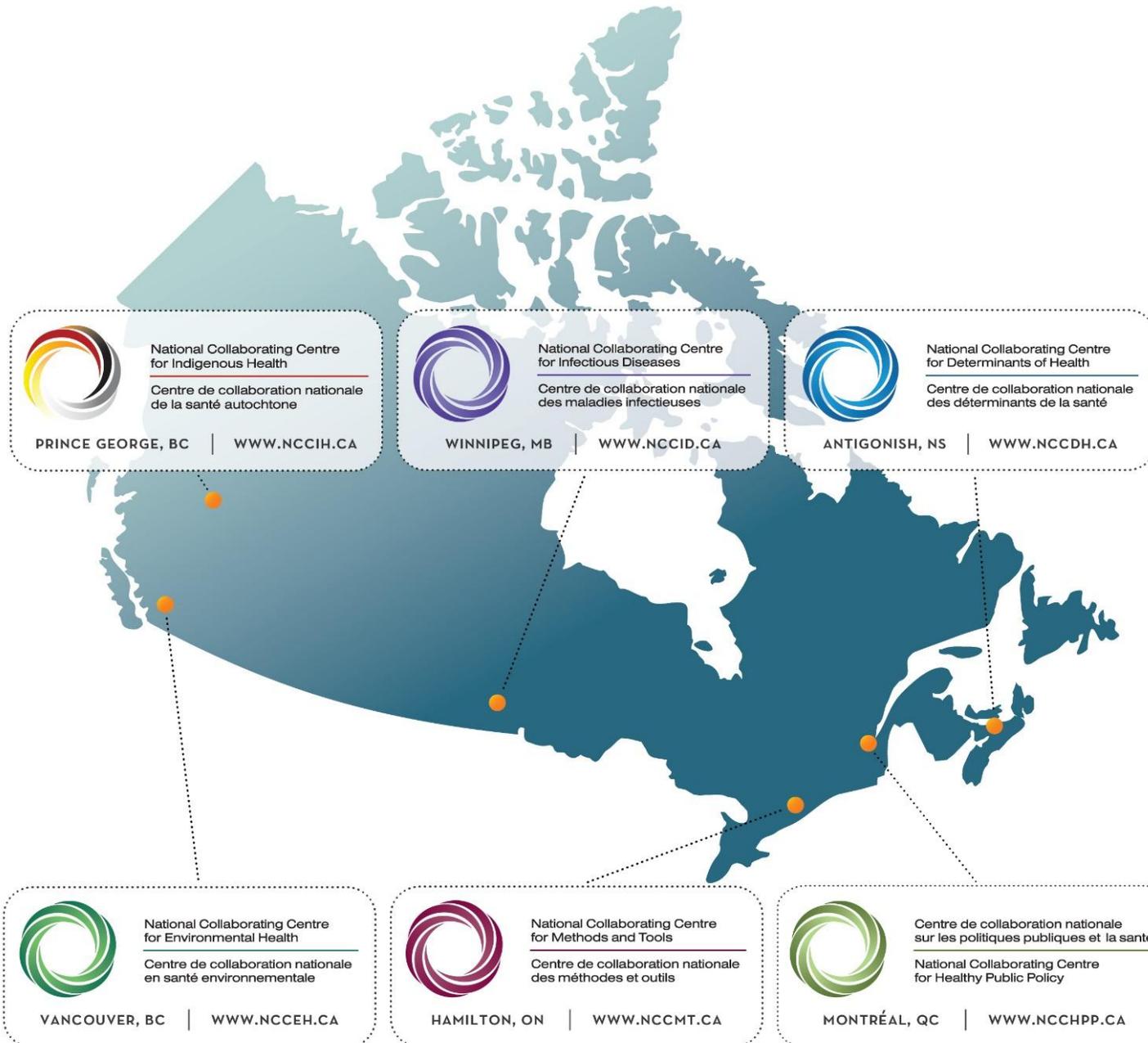
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# Outline

1. Why talk about Health in All Policies at the Métis Health Forum?
2. What is Health in all Policies (HiAP)?
3. What is Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?
4. Are HiAP and HIA relevant for Métis health?



# Why talk about Health in All Policies at the Métis Health Forum?

One of the forum's objectives:

- ∞ Understanding social determinants of health as a key approach to closing the health gaps between Métis and other Canadians.

Could Health in All Policies (HiAP) serve as an approach to support the operationalization of that objective?

An evidence-informed approach to respond to the fact that **most public policy levers** to act on the (Métis) social determinants of health and health inequities **reside outside of the health sector.**



# Why talk about Health in All Policies at the Métis Health Forum?

- Growing interest in HiAP in Canada, in various jurisdictions and levels of government, partly to deal with the long-term effects of the pandemic
- Creation of Canadian Network for HiAP

Could HiAP be leveraged for Métis health when implemented by non-Indigenous governance structures (F/P/T/M)?

Would it be interesting for Métis governments to adapt and implement HiAP?



# What is Health in all Policies (HiAP)?



[a]n approach to public policies across sectors that **systematically** takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks **synergies**, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity. It improves **accountability** of policymakers for health impacts at all levels of policy-making.

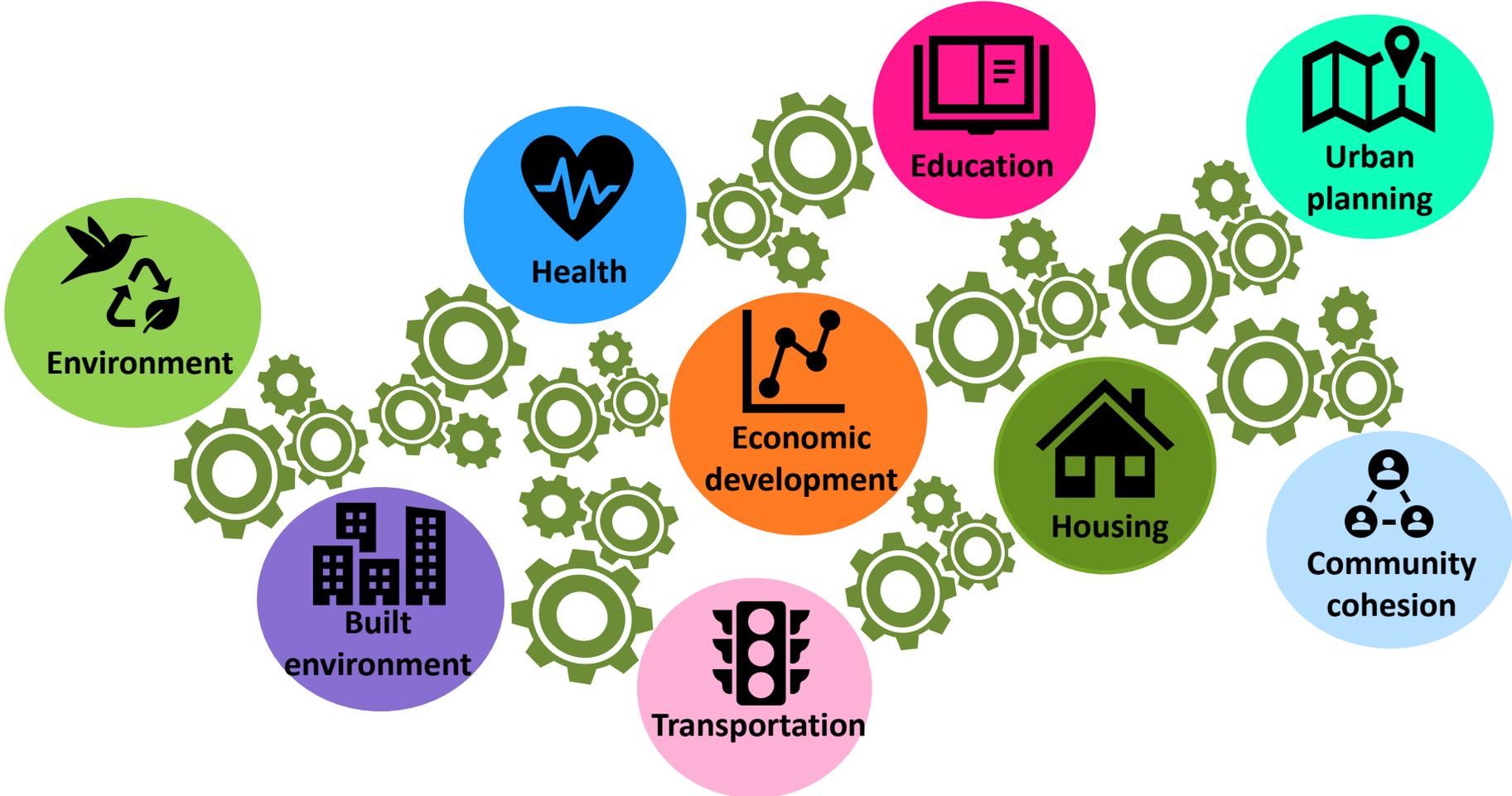
World Health Organization, 2014



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# Health in All Policies



# Main characteristics of HiAP



Broad conception of health based on a **social determinants of health** framework



**Collaborations** between health and non-health sectors



Government-endorsed & **strong governance**



Prospective **tools** such as **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** to inform policymaking



# One example: Health in All Policies in Québec



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## Government Health Prevention Policy 2016-2025



27 departments and agencies  
100 actions, 80 NGOs



\$120 million for 2022-2025



Interdepartmental Action  
Plan

for 2022-2025



4 orientations

2 cross-cutting issues

3 areas of research



Measure 2.6 equips the municipal  
sector with the capacity to  
implement HIA

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# HiAP is possible, but it is not without its challenges

## Other examples:

- South Australia
- Finland
- California
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- ...

## Some challenges:

- Securing political support for cross-government action
- Shifting from government silos to joined-up government
- Developing a shared language across sectors
- Managing conflict of interest between sectors
- Ensuring sustainability (financial, political, conceptual)

(Peña, 2018)

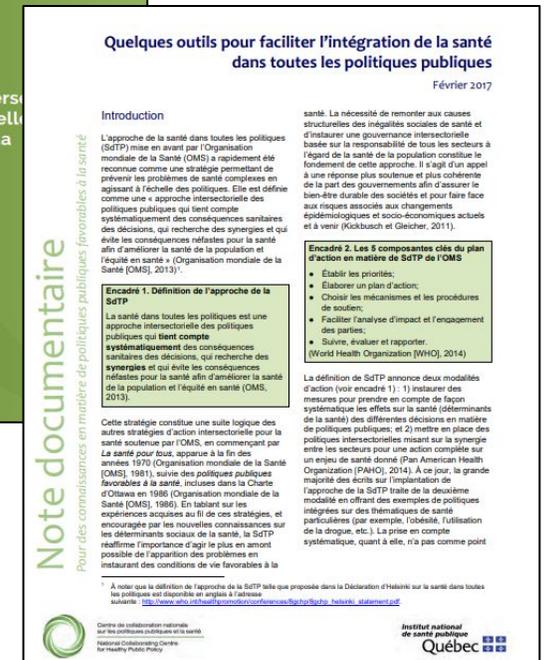
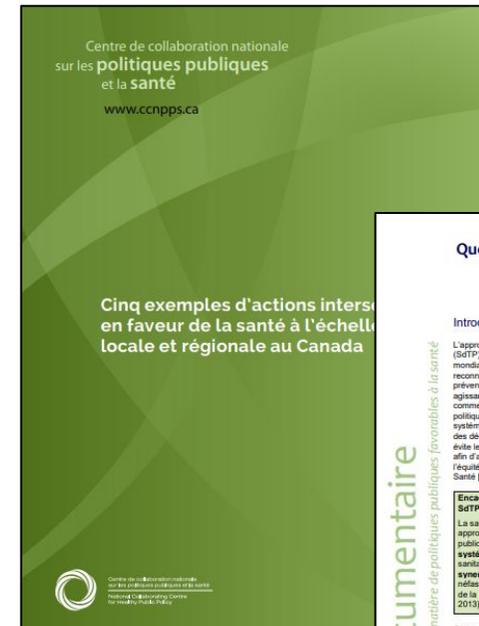
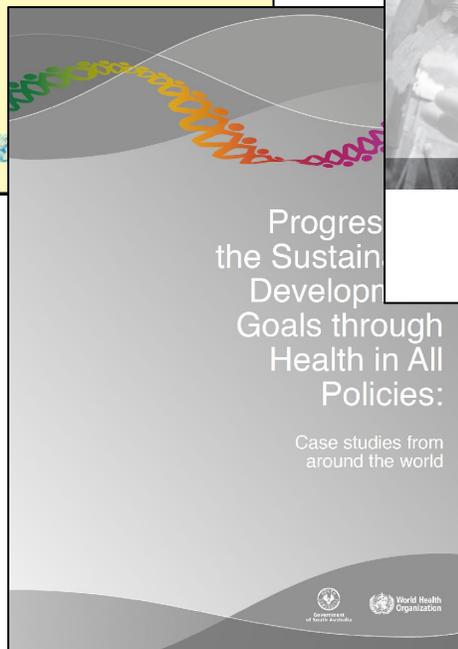
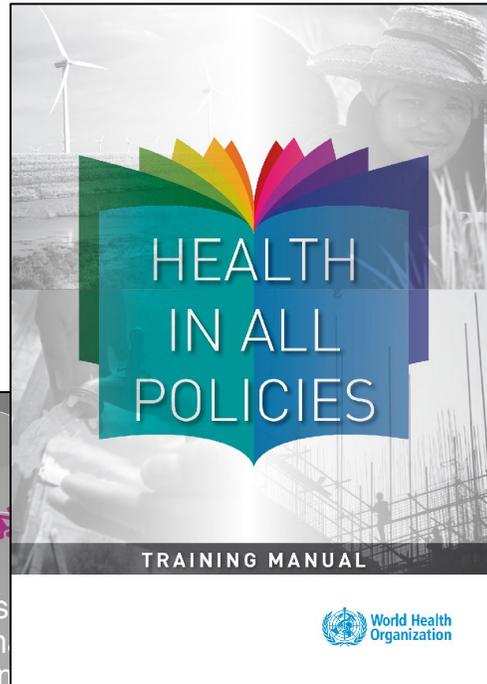


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# There are resources to help



<https://ccnpps-ncchpp.ca/health-in-all-policies/>

# What is HIA?



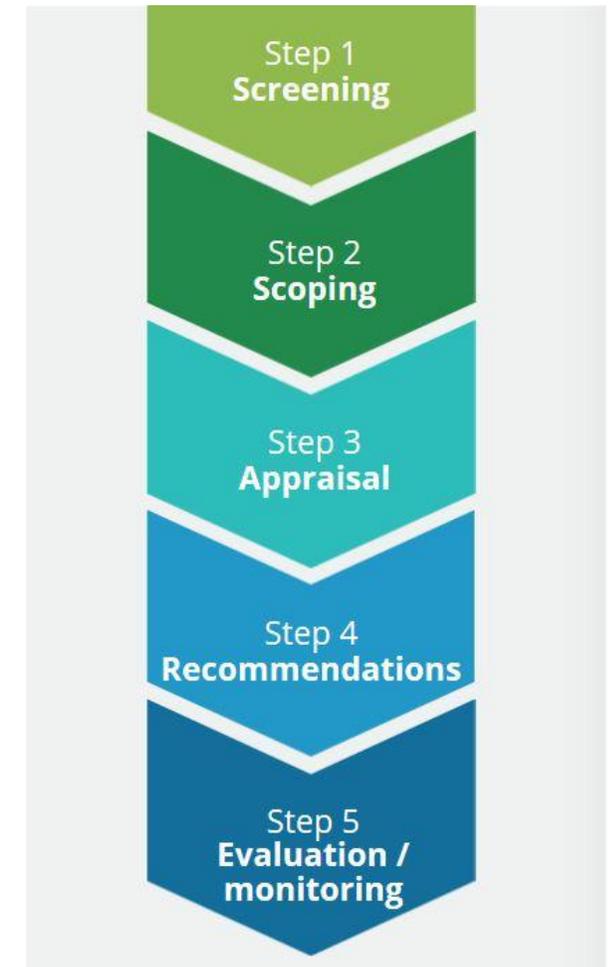
*A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a **policy, program or project** may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and **the distribution of those effects within the population.***

World Health Organization, 1999



# HIA – Main characteristics

- A standardized process to conduct **prospective evaluations**
- To inform **decision makers & policy makers**
- Considers the **positive and negative impacts**, and ways to improve the health outcomes of the policy, program or project
- Based on a **broad conception of health (SDOH)**
- Can use different **kinds of evidence and knowledge**
- Focused on policies, programs or projects **outside the health sector**



# Resources on HIA

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

Free Online Course

Health impact assessment, step by step

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a structured and innovative process that enables you to:

- ▶ Evaluate the potential effects of a project, a program or a policy on population health
- ▶ Better inform policy makers
- ▶ Act on population well-being

This comprehensive course will equip you to participate in any HIA process!

To register [ncchpp.ca/hia](http://ncchpp.ca/hia)

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<https://cnpps-ncchpp.ca/health-impact-assessment/>

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Preparing and Conducting Work Meetings Within the Context of the Health Impact Assessment Process

Practical Guide | December 2013

**Organizational Conditions Favourable for Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**  
March 2014

One of the mandates of the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCPPP) is to inform Canadian public health practitioners about effective strategies for fostering the adoption of healthy public policies.

Health impact assessment (HIA) is currently the most structured practice available to public health actors working toward this goal. HIA is applicable to policies developed by sectors other than that of health, which may have significant effects on the determinants of health.

The specific focus of this briefing note is to identify basic organizational conditions necessary for incorporating HIAs into routine practice.

The growing interest in health impact assessment (HIA) within Canada is often accompanied by questions of a practical nature: How does one move from theory to practice? What basic organizational conditions are necessary for a practice to be initiated? Where should one begin?

The aim of this briefing note on the basic conditions needed to initiate the practice of HIA is to provide some answers to these questions. It is intended for local and regional public health authorities that would like to explore the possibility of carrying out HIAs on municipal policies.

HIA is a process that combines scientific evidence and stakeholders' knowledge to identify the potential effects of a new proposal (for a policy or a project) on the health of the population and on equity. The goal is to formulate recommendations that can lead decision makers to protect and improve health and equity.

HIA is now recognized worldwide as an effective practice for promoting the adoption of healthy public policies (Bourcier, Charbonneau, Caroll, & Danenberg, 2014; Harris et al., 2013). Its aim is to estimate in advance the potential effects of a proposed policy or project on population health and to make recommendations to support decision making. The field benefits from practice frameworks that have been developed by international authorities and these frameworks have been consensus among a variety of public health actors and organizations throughout the world (European Commission, 2004; World Health Organization [WHO] European Centre for Health Policy, 1999; WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2005).

The values and principles on which HIA is based were established at the time of its introduction into the health promotion field at the end of the 1990s and they have been upheld over time (Harris et al., 2013; Harcourt, Cava, Nowacki, Vlahov, & Vozza, 2011; O'Grady et al., 2008; WHO European Centre for Health Policy, 1999). HIA promotes equity, democracy, the ethical use of knowledge and sustainable development. It adheres, moreover, to certain principles, which are, namely a holistic approach to health, the use of an inclusive process structured the successive

It should be clarified from the outset that the NCCPPP focuses specifically on what is referred to as the decision-support model of practice. This type of HIA is conducted on a voluntary basis, in collaboration with decision makers and in the absence of a regulatory framework (Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2011).

This practice is of primary concern to public health organizations. HIA is a tool and process that fosters the implementation of healthy public policies. Although it is flexible and can be adapted to diverse implementation contexts, it nevertheless requires the presence of certain basic organizational conditions to be practised successfully.

By reviewing international HIA experiences, it is possible to identify some common aspects that

Briefing Note  
For up-to-date knowledge relating to healthy public policy

**What Distinguishes HIA from Other Public Health Practices?**  
March 2015

**Foreword**

The practice of health impact assessment (HIA) is gaining popularity in Canada. HIA is different from, but also similar to, common public health practices. This note only seeks to clarify confusion about HIA, but also leads to the association with similar practices that have different aims. Although HIA is a powerful tool for promoting and protecting health, as well as a means of improving equity, its use is not relevant in all situations. Recognizing the conditions that make HIA an appropriate choice for a given situation is an issue central to the consolidation of the practice in Canada. This briefing note aims to clarify the specificity of HIA as compared to similar public health practices.

**Introduction**

HIA is now recognized worldwide as an effective practice for promoting the adoption of healthy public policies (Bourcier, Charbonneau, Caroll, & Danenberg, 2014; Harris et al., 2013). Its aim is to estimate in advance the potential effects of a proposed policy or project on population health and to make recommendations to support decision making. The field benefits from practice frameworks that have been developed by international authorities and these frameworks have been consensus among a variety of public health actors and organizations throughout the world (European Commission, 2004; World Health Organization [WHO] European Centre for Health Policy, 1999; WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2005).

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What distinguishes HIA from other public health practices that seek to influence policies or projects to make them more conducive to health? The issue regarding the boundaries that define the practice of HIA is frequently raised (Fahst, Maki, Corbin, & Harris, 2014; Harris, Kamp, & Sainsbury, 2012; Harris-Roxas & Harris, 2011; Kerner, 2012; Kerner, Parry, & Palmer, 2004). This is all the more important given that HIA is required to adapt to the specific context of its application (B for purpose) without losing its specificity. To effectively communicate the specific characteristics of HIA to partners in other sectors, the public health actor must possess a shared understanding (Guil & Page, 2014).

This briefing note is intended to clarify what defines HIA in the Canadian context in order to foster the shared understanding needed for its implementation. It offers reflections that assist in distinguishing HIA from other processes promoting healthy public policies used in Canada. For instance, HIA is sometimes confused with needs assessments, with policy making or advocacy processes put in place to meet specific health objectives, with risk assessments of

# Are HiAP and HIA relevant for Métis Health?

To inform the reflection:

**A literature review:** *Impact Assessments in Indigenous Contexts: Promising Avenues for Reflection and Improvement for Health Impact Assessment*

- Some documented developments
- Some persistent challenges



<https://ccnpps-nccchpp.ca/impact-assessments-in-indigenous-contexts-promising-avenues-for-reflection-and-improvement-for-health-impact-assessment/>



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# Some documented developments over time regarding impact assessments

- Emergence over time of a broader conception of health

(Hackett, Liu, & Noble, 2018; Jones & Bradshaw, 2015; Pinto-Guillaume, 2017)

- Growing recognition of the right of Indigenous Peoples to be consulted

(Larsen, 2018)

- Canada included the obligation to recognize Indigenous knowledges, as part of the impact assessment review process (IAAC, 2019)



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# Some persistent challenges

## Data and knowledge systems

- The concept of health
- Traditional Indigenous knowledges
- Cumulative effects

## Overall approach and working method

- Different perspectives on effectiveness
- Meaningful participation
- Co-management

## Institutional context

- Legal framework
- Implicit dominant values
- Competencies and capacities



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- Growing interest in HiAP in Canada, in various jurisdictions and levels of government, partly to deal with the long-term effects of the pandemic
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