Welcome to the fourth session of Canadian Health Care Matters
A Webinar Series

Today’s topic...

Health Impact Assessment – Making Whole-of-Government Decision Making Possible

Based on concepts from our recent report
Stepping It Up: Moving the Focus from Health Care in Canada to a Healthier Canada
Health Impact Assessment – Making Whole-of-Government Decision Making Possible

March 9, 2011

Louise St. Pierre
Head of Projects
National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
Quebec City

Lyne Jobin
Director
Directorate of Public Health Planning, Evaluation and Development, Public Health Branch, Ministry of Health and Social Services
Quebec City

Olanna White
Research Consultant
Healthy Public Policy Directorate, Toronto Public Health
Toronto

John G. Abbott
Host
CEO
Health Council of Canada

Terry Glecoff
Moderator
Media Specialist
Health Council of Canada
What is Health Impact Assessment?

Health Impact Assessment is a structured method to evaluate the potential impact of policies or programs on the population’s health and health inequities.
Why is whole-of-government decision making important?

• Canadians’ health and a healthy population must be viewed as the responsibility of governments and society as a whole, not just that of the ministries of health or health promotion.

• Governments need to govern more collaboratively in an approach that links multiple ministries, multiple levels of government, and other sectors of our society.

• Canadian governments are beginning to move in this direction; that move needs to strengthen.
HIA in Whole-of-Government Approach

Health impact assessment - Making Whole-of Government Decision Making Possible?

Webinar organized by the Health Council of Canada, March 9th 2011

Louise St-Pierre
National Collaborating Centre on Healthy Public Policy
Plan

Unravelling the concepts
• Whole-of-Government approach
• Health in All Policies
• Health Impact Assessment
Backgrounds

• NCCHPP : HIA and integrated governance

• Literature reviews on “Whole-of-Government” approach
  (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and IUHPE)

• Upcoming book on intersectoral governance
  (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and IUHPE)

• Current case study on governmental initiative related to
  “Whole-of-Governance” approach
  (WHOCC on Chronic Non Communicable Disease Policy)

• HIA expert group (IUHPE)
Whole-of-Government approach

“Whole of government denotes public service agencies working across portfolio boundaries to achieve a **shared goal** and an integrated government response to **particular issues**” (Australian Government, 2004)

- Not only into the health sector
- Approach also needed for complex problems (wicked)
- Usually to give an integrated policy response to a specific and complex issue
### Whole-of-Government examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four dimensions of WoG</th>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Intersectoral partnership mechanisms</th>
<th>Integrated accountability mechanisms</th>
<th>Shaping the intersectoral culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quebec’s governmental plan to prevent obesity</td>
<td>. Asked by the Cabinet</td>
<td>. Assistant Deputy Ministers’ Inter-departmental committee (9)</td>
<td>Triennial report to Cabinet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>. Plan developed jointly by 9 ministries</td>
<td>. 4 different interdepartmental working groups</td>
<td>Implementation evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>. Based on broad vision of health</td>
<td>. Engaging civil society organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act Now BC</td>
<td>. Commitment from the Premier (Throne Speech)</td>
<td>. Assistant Deputy Ministers’ Inter-departmental committee (19)</td>
<td>. Specific accountability framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>. Minister of State</td>
<td>. Engaging civil society organizations (grants)</td>
<td>. Integration of ActNowBC into service plans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>. Clear objectives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from St-Pierre et Gauvin, 2011)
Health in All Policies

“Health in All Policies is a horizontal, complementary policy related strategy with high potential to contributing to population health. The core of Health in All Policies is to examine determinants of health, which can be influenced to improve health but are mainly controlled by policies of sectors other than health” (Sihto et al, 2006).

• What is new
  – Systematic and sustainable arrangements within government
  – Win-win approach: “less preaching, more serving” from the health sector
Health Impact Assessment (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”

ECHP, WHO, 1999

– Procedure
– Prospective assessment
– Concerns for equity
HIA – Model of Health

HIA – Policy making process

(Re) Emergence of a problem

Perception of public and private problems

Agenda setting by the government

Implementation

Evaluation

Adoption of a policy

Formulation of alternatives

Adapted from Knoepfel, Larrue and Varone (2001)
HIA – Classical steps

A structured practice

Screening

Scoping

Appraisal

Reporting

Evaluation

Health determinants list

What, who, how

Rapid or comprehensive assessment

Systematic reviews and consultation
HIA – Worldwide practice
# HIA needs to “fit for purpose”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Health Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandated</strong></td>
<td>By public health experts; To meet statutory requirement;</td>
<td>(-) health impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision-support</strong></td>
<td>With agreement of organisations responsible for proposal; Improving decision-making;</td>
<td>(-) and (+) health impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy</strong></td>
<td>By groups who are neither proponents or decision-makers; Influencing decision-making;</td>
<td>(-) and (+) health impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community-led</strong></td>
<td>By potentially affected communities; Ensuring the community’s concerns; Democracy;</td>
<td>(-) and (+) health impacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIA within HiAP

Typology of Health Impact Assessment according to Harris-Roxas & Harris (2010)
HIA as decision-support

Refining the HIA definition

“Health Impact Assessment is an interactive strategy for promoting the integration for health in public policy through improving the relevance of potential health impacts from proposed policies or plans, with useful, feasible, and acceptable policy alternatives”

(Bekker, 2007)
Conclusion: HIA / HiAP / WoG

HIA to be seen as a tool and process, that supports the Health in All Policies strategy,
And that works better in a “whole-of-government” context,
under certain conditions
References


- Website for the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy’s page on Health Impact Assessment...
Section 54 of the Québec Public Health Act: Towards the Integration of Health in all Policies

Lyne Jobin
Director of Public Health Planning, Evaluation and Development
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Health Impact Assessment – Making Whole-of-Government Decision Making Possible
Webinar organized by the Health Council of Canada and the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
March 9, 2011
Origin of HIA in Québec

- International movement for health promotion (Ottawa Charter, 1986)
- Recognition of the impact of decisions made in other sectors on the health of the population and on the social inequalities of health
- Need to develop public policies that are conducive to health
- Issue of consistency in government decisions
- HIA: a tool of choice for taking health issues into account in the various spheres of government activity
Origin of HIA in Québec

- Review of the Public Health Act in 2001
- Establishment of conditions conducive to carrying out the essential public health functions
- Implementation of a dynamic link between the various actors at the central, regional and local levels
- Legal framework for acting upon public policy
Origin of HIA in Québec

Public Health Act

Section 54. The Minister is by virtue of his or her office the advisor of the Government on any public health issue. The Minister shall give the other ministers any advice he or she considers advisable for health promotion and the adoption of policies capable of fostering the enhancement of the health and welfare of the population.

In the Minister's capacity as government advisor, the Minister shall be consulted in relation to the development of the measures provided for in an Act or regulation that could have significant impact on the health of the population.
Strategy for Application of Section 54 of the PHA

1. Implementation of an intragovernmental HIA mechanism

2. Development and transfer of knowledge on public policies conducive to health
Strategy for Application of Section 54 of the PHA

1. Intragovernmental HIA mechanism

Goals

- Enable ministries and public agencies to assess beforehand the potential impacts on health of the various measures put forth in the form of bills and regulations
- Promote mitigating measures and inform decision-making

The ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) supports HIA through:

- Access to relevant expertise
- Tools to assist in decision-making

Québec
Achievements of the MSSS

- Establishment of a network of ministerial representatives
- Distribution of a briefing document on determinants of health
- Distribution of a practical HIA guide
- Distribution of a liaison bulletin

http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/article54
Strategy for Application of Section 54 of the PHA

Findings

- Greater awareness-building and participation by partners and an increasing ownership of the process within ministries and public agencies
- Requests for proposals other than bills and regulations
- However, many requests are sent in near the end of the decision-making process
- Some bills and draft regulations still not submitted to HIA
Strategy for Application of Section 54 of the PHA

2. Development and Transfer of Knowledge

Funded research

- Interdisciplinary research on public policies conducive to health
- Transfer of knowledge to appropriate decision-makers and professionals

Agreement between the MSSS and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec

- Evidence-based reports on public policy and health produced to support the Minister in his role of advisor to the other ministers
- Training and support for the development of HIA tools
- Public Policy and Health Portal and monitoring
  
Strategy for Application of Section 54 of the PHA

The importance of developing and transferring knowledge on public policies conducive to health

- Multiple innovations showing government commitment and investment by public health partners

- However:
  - Be sure to meet the knowledge needs of intersectoral partners
  - Be sure that knowledge transfer is carried out at the right time
  - Strike a balance between an expert-based approach and assistance in decision-making

Québec
Challenges and Perspectives

- **Support changes in practice for greater use of HIA**
  - Support partners in the economic and social spheres
  - Ensure the quality of HIAs in the government environment
  - Develop effective means for knowledge transfer, especially for affected decision-makers and professionals

- **Develop strategic monitoring in order to act at the beginning of the decision-making process**

- **More generally, strengthen intersectoral actions at all levels of government**
  - Create horizontal and vertical synergies so as to remove certain obstacles and take advantage of all opportunities
For More Information...

http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/article54

City of Toronto Mixed Waste Processing Facility HIA

Olanna White
Research Consultant
Healthy Public Policy Directorate
Toronto Public Health

March 9, 2011
The Context of HIA in Toronto

• The Medical Officer of Health
  • Has a history of advocating for healthy public policy
  • Is often asked to comment on municipal decisions

• HIA identified as a decision support tool

• City Council approves the development of an HIA framework
• Guiding Principles
  • Equity considerations
• Modeled after the New Zealand Guide to Health Impact Assessment
• Goal to divert waste by 70%
• Identify preferred waste management technology and site
• Study components:
  • economic evaluation
  • life cycle assessment
  • HIA
HIA Screening Tool

Based on Greater London Authority Screening Tool

- Qualitative tool
- Determinants of health
- Populations affected

### Potential Impact on Determinants of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Factors</th>
<th>Not enough Information</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phase 1

• Adaptation of Screening tool
• Expert working group
• Narrowing of technology options
• Results shared with receiving community

Phase 2

• Day long workshop
• Receiving community stakeholders
Workshop recommendations:

1. Odour mitigation
2. Cumulative Impact Assessment
3. Mitigation efforts reflected in Project Terms of Reference
4. Enhance positive impacts
   • jobs, research etc.

Positive Outcomes

• Health considered in decision making
• Improved relationships with all stakeholders
• Improved partnerships within the organization (City of Toronto)
• Framework was easily adapted
Challenges

• HIA is a time and resource intensive process
• Current framework document - lengthy and a challenge to use (for non-expert)
• Current framework - best suited for environmental policies and projects
• Should HIA be a Guideline or Requirement?
TPH Strategic Plan 2010-2014

• Deliver services that meet the health needs of Toronto’s diverse communities
  • Use equity-focused health impact assessment tools to guide policies and practices
• Champion healthy public policy
HIA in Toronto – Next Steps

• Refine the HIA Framework
• Apply the HIA Framework to:
  • Toronto Public Health Projects
  • Municipal Projects and Policies
References and Resources

Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan
http://www.toronto.ca/health/strategicplan/index.htm

Toronto Public Health HIA Documents
http://www.toronto.ca/health/hphe/environmental_health/environmental.htm

City of Toronto Mixed Waste Processing Study
http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/mwp/index.htm
In our remaining time, the field is wide open for your questions.

We remind you to please type your questions in the Q&A window to the right...
Health Impact Assessment – Making Whole-of-Government Decision Making Possible

March 9, 2011

Head of Projects
National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
Quebec City

Lyne Jobin

Director
Directorate of Public Health Planning, Evaluation and Development, Public Health Branch, Ministry of Health and Social Services
Quebec City

Olanna White

Research Consultant
Healthy Public Policy Directorate, Toronto Public Health
Toronto

Host
CEO
Health Council of Canada

John G. Abbott

Moderator
Media Specialist
Health Council of Canada

Terry Glecoff

Louise St. Pierre
Thank You!

We appreciate your participation in this session of

Canadian Health Care Matters
A Webinar Series

For further discussion or to pose more questions

healthcouncilcanada.ca

Please complete the post-webinar survey