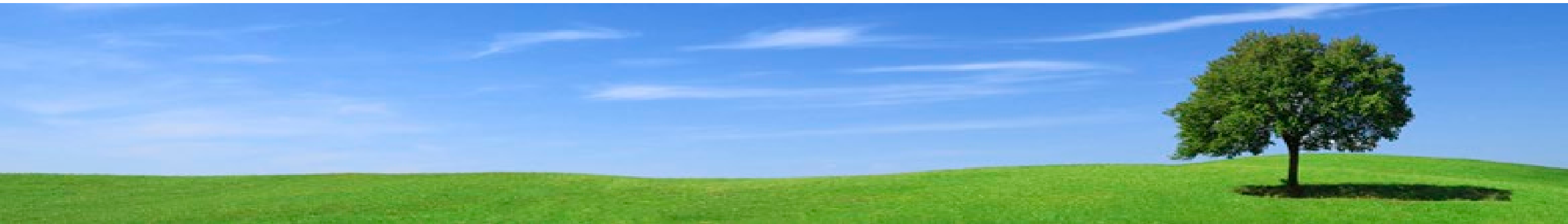


Conducting Engagement in Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)



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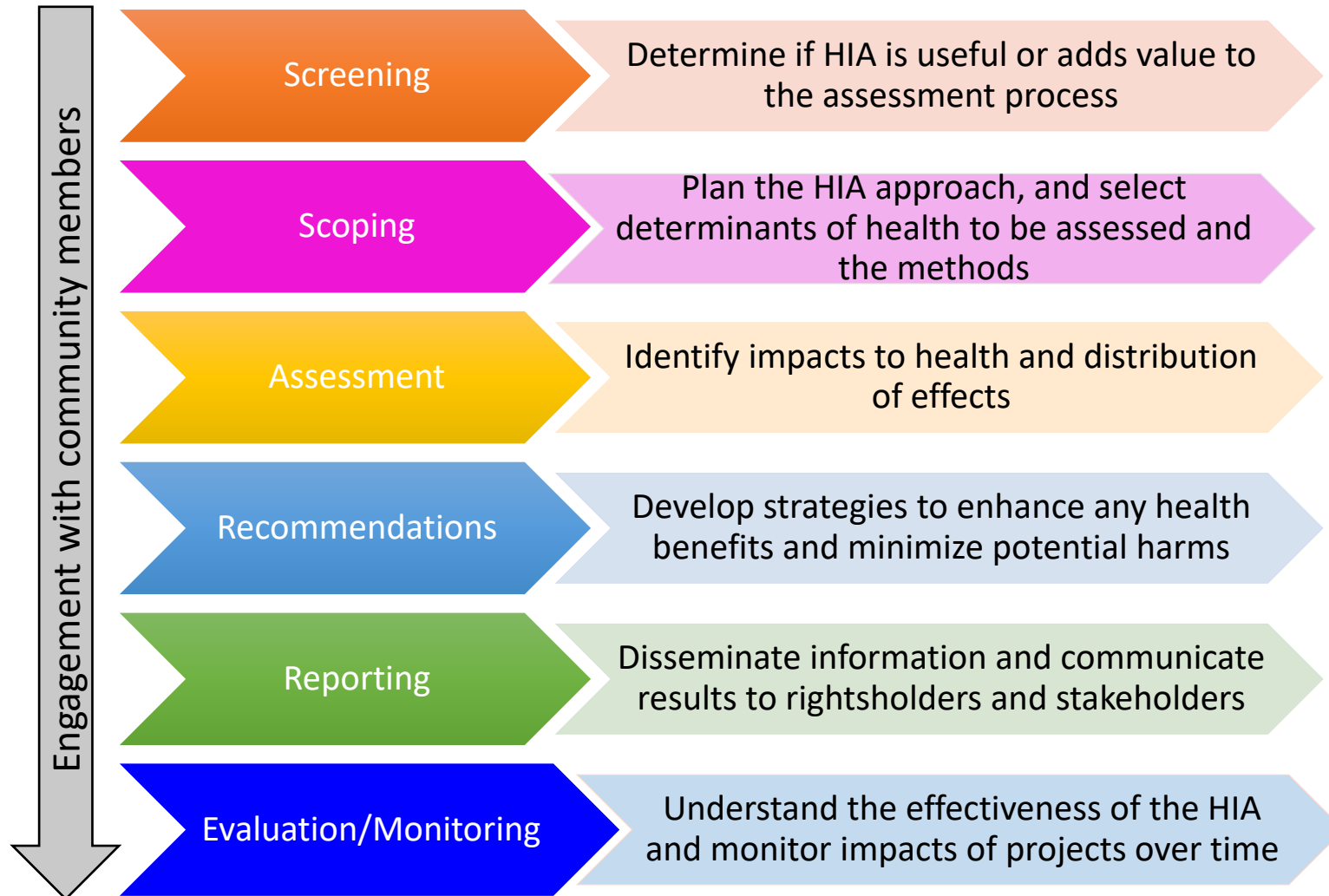
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Presentation Outline

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Process
 - Foundational Principles of HIA
- HIA in Canada's Impact Assessment Process
- HIAs Can Support Major Project Development
 - Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus
 - Applying GBA Plus
 - Engagement in HIA
 - Conducting Engagement
- Engagement with Rightsholders and Stakeholders in HIA using a GBA Plus approach

Health Impact Assessments (HIA) Process



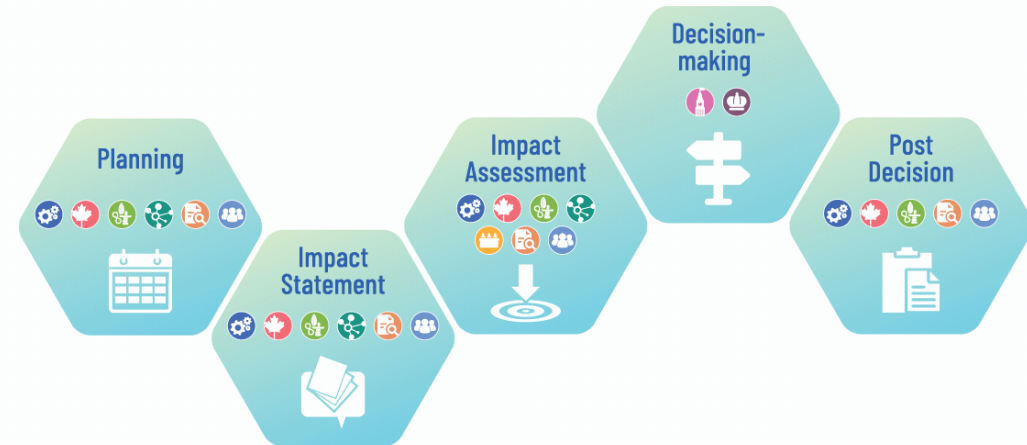
Foundational Principles of HIA

- 1) **Equity**
 - Foundational value of HIA, applied to all stages of the HIA process
- 2) **Democracy**
 - HIA processes are participatory and democratic by design
- 3) **A Holistic View of Health**
 - HIAs assess health and well-being using a holistic approach
- 4) **Sustainable Development**
 - HIA considers the short and long-term effects of the programs, projects and/or policies implemented
- 5) **Ethical Use of Evidence**
 - The HIA process is data-driven and supports transparent and rigorous decision making



HIA in Canada's Impact Assessment Process

- Federally designated projects require human health to be assessed by employing “best practices in Health Impact Assessment methods”
- Potential impacts on human health and well-being are the focus
- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) prepares Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) for designated projects as part of the Planning Phase of the IA process
- The TISG provides the direction and requirements, which includes a human health assessment
- HIA is completed during the Planning and Impact Statement Phase, along with other IA study streams
- Engagement with rightsholders and stakeholders is an essential part of the IA process from the Planning Phase onwards



Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2022

HIAs Can Support Major Project Development



HIAs can help influence decision and policy making



Useful way to engage with members of the public affected by a particular proposal



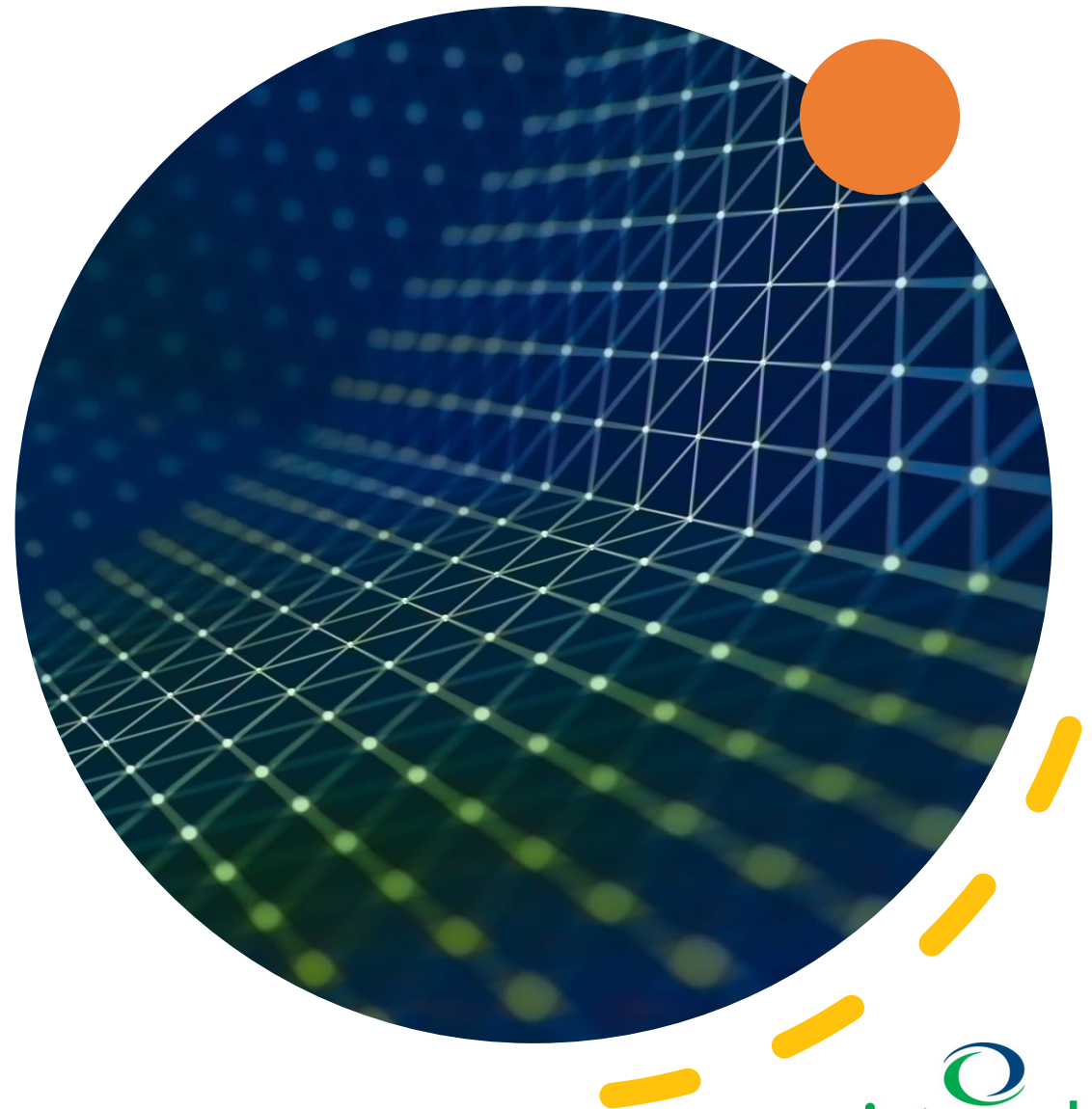
HIA is a useful and valuable process which can support both local and Indigenous governments and health authorities meet their goals



HIAs bring an intersectional or GBA Plus lens to the project and identify those who will be most affected

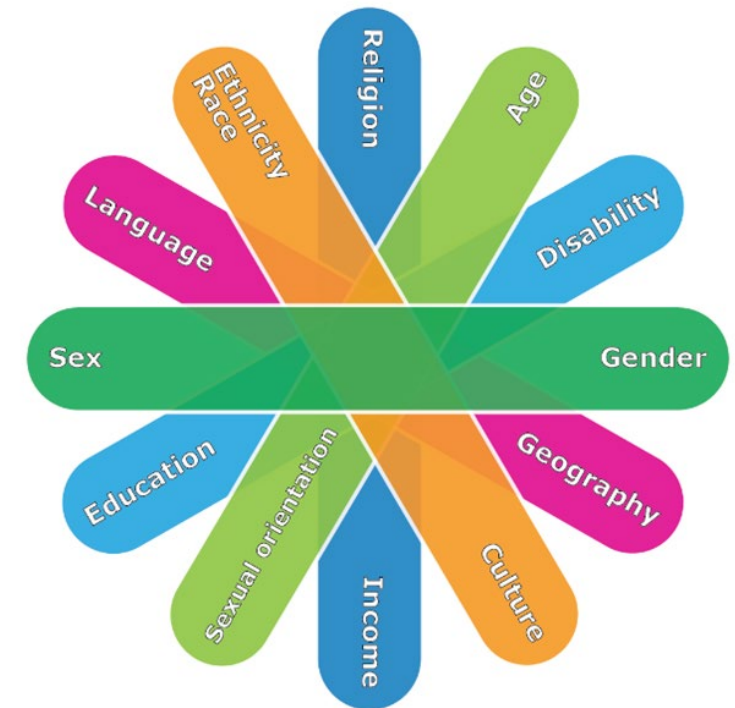


Example: transportation projects affect health. Those living in the area could have concerns about traffic injuries and volume, air pollution, noise, bike lanes, etc.



Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus

- GBA Plus requires examining a wide range of factors including race, ethnicity, age, mental or physical ability, and the interaction between these factors that influences our experiences (intersectional approach) (WAGE, 2023)
- GBA Plus helps us recognize our assumptions and challenge them by looking at how different groups are affected differently
- GBA Plus has similar requirements as HIAs (e.g., engagement of rightsholders and stakeholders)
- Can integrate GBA Plus into the HIA process when completing engagement and data collection



Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), 2022

Applying Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus



Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), 2023

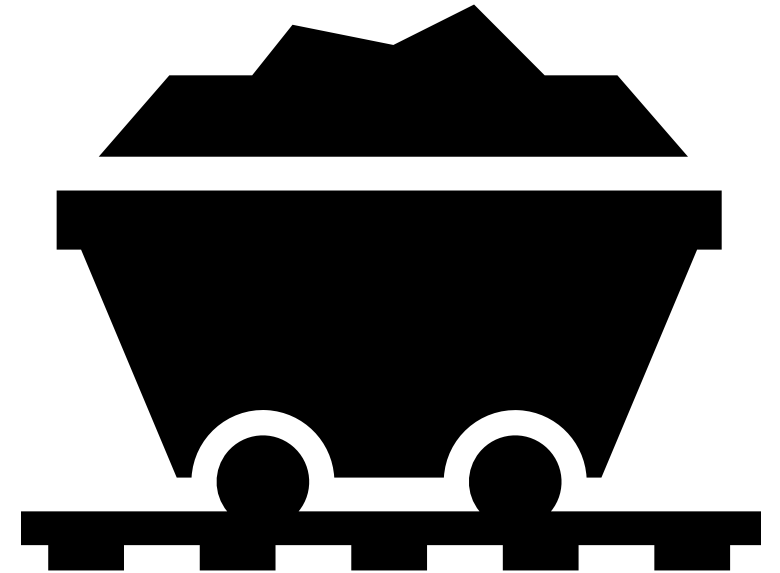
- Identify the context, gender and diversity issues
- Challenge assumptions (we all have them!)
- Gather the facts
 - Conduct Research – gender-disaggregated data and other intersecting factors, identify data gaps
 - Consult stakeholders
- Develop options and make recommendations
- Monitor and evaluate
 - Identify groups who are positively or negatively affected
 - Highlight data gaps
- Communicate the initiative
- Document the process and findings

Applying GBA Plus Example - Mining

Hiring X number of workers over the next several years

Some questions to ask using a GBA plus lens:

- What are the current socio-demographic characteristics of the mining and exploration sector workforce?
- Are there any segments of the population that are under-represented in the workforce (for example women, Indigenous peoples, young adults)?
- What are the barriers to employment for under-represented groups (for example shift-work, remote location, employer stereotypes, safety)?
- Can measures be developed to address any perceived or identified barriers?
- In developing your approach to the issue, have you consulted a wide-range of rightsholders and stakeholders, including under-represented groups?



Engagement in HIA

- Ideally, should take place throughout the HIA process
- The screening and scoping steps involve developing a rightsholder and stakeholder engagement plan
- Identify the rightsholders and stakeholders to be engaged, and how
- Building good relationships from the beginning is key



United Utilities, 2023

Engagement in HIA

- Forms of engagement throughout an HIA can include:
 - Focus groups to identify determinants of health to be assessed
 - Surveys (online and/or in person)
 - Community engagement with individuals and groups through public information sessions
 - Community visits
 - Open houses
 - Town hall meetings
 - Conversations with subject matter experts and proponents
 - Websites to share updates about the policy or project with contact info to provide feedback



Conducting Engagement



- Identifying the rightsholders and stakeholders for the project study area
 - Determine who the vulnerable subgroups are and if they may be disproportionately impacted
- Effective communication – establishing clear and consistent communication channels, methods, and frequency
- Considering cultural, linguistic, ethical aspects of communication to avoid misunderstandings or conflicts
- Trying to align many different points of view
- Resource constraints – time, budget

Engagement with Rightsholders and Stakeholders in HIA using a GBA Plus approach

Example from working with a remote community

- Providing Information and Q&A sessions over meals
 - Asked community members what the best way to engage was
 - Built rapport before asking sensitive and vulnerable questions
- Having culturally appropriate questions and ways to ask them
 - Trauma-informed approaches
- Surveys both in person and online
 - Coordinate with other teams to avoid engagement fatigue
 - Trained community members to administer surveys
- Focus groups for Elders, women, men, youth, land users, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals

Challenges included:

- Language barriers
- COVID-19
- Access to reliable internet
- Limited in-person engagement due to remote access



THANK YOU!!!

Any Questions?

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