

Information Grid: Canadian HIA initiatives Keppoch-Beaver - PATH

Identification (Project title, place)	Antigonish County, Nova Scotia Keppoch-Beaver Mountain Recreation Project
Contact information	Susan Eaton: susan.eaton@ns.sympatico.ca
Background Information	The Keppoch-Beaver Mountain Project is a proposed \$27 million, four-season recreational development that is sponsored and financed by the municipal government of the County of Antigonish. The development will expand a former ski hill and surrounding trails and include a variety of recreational opportunities. It is expected to be a destination for people from the local area and to attract visitors from other parts of the province and beyond. The project has significant support within the community but has also garnered significant opposition from people who are concerned about its scope and scale (a large centre to be built at the top of the mountain, requiring a new road to be built; a proposal to expropriate land to accommodate a 400-car parking lot; significant draw on the water supply in the area to support the snow-making machines, etc.).
Groups/people in charge of the project	Municipality of the County of Antigonish
Who requested the HIA project?	The actual request came from the Municipal Council, through the Antigonish Regional Development Authority
What kinds of tools were used? (e.g. HIA guide)	The Community Health Impact Assessment Tool (CHIAT) developed by the Antigonish Town and County Community Health Board
Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How? ▪ Who was involved? ▪ Were the results communicated? 	The initial request came from the Concerned Ratepayers group (local residents with significant concerns about the scope and scale of the development project). The District Health Authority also suggested that the HIA be done. Members of the People Assessing Their Health (PATH) Network met with the Regional Development Authority and with the Keppoch-Beaver Mountain Project Manager to determine if the project would benefit from a CHIA. The results were communicated to the Municipal Council, the Concerned Ratepayers group, and to the public through the local media.
Scooping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How? ▪ Who was involved? ▪ Were the results communicated? 	Staff from the Regional Development Authority and members of the PATH Network, in consultation with the Project Manager and a Municipal Council member, planned the process. The overall scope of the assessment was pre-determined by the nature of the community health impact assessment tool that was being used. The choice of participants was based on lists suggested by the councillors in each of the ten electoral districts of the municipality.



<p>Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literature review (yes, no, how) ▪ Stakeholder or citizen participation (yes, no, how) 	<p>No literature review was conducted.</p> <p>The fourteen participants in the CHIA were all citizens representing each of the ten electoral districts in the municipality. They participated in two three-hour sessions facilitated by two members of the PATH Network using the HIA tool developed by the Community Health Board.</p>
<p>Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written? ▪ With recommendations? ▪ Made public? 	<p>A written report was submitted to the Municipal Council, followed by a presentation to Council members.</p> <p>The report contained eight (8) recommendations to the Municipal Council.</p> <p>The Municipal Council has not yet made the report public but is under considerable pressure to do so.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Process evaluation? ▪ Impact monitoring? 	<p>Participants provided a verbal evaluation at the conclusion of the impact assessment. The overall evaluation was very positive, in large part due to the way the tool facilitates respectful dialogue and engages all participants in learning from one another.</p> <p>Participants will be interviewed about their experience at a later date.</p> <p>Members of the Municipal Council will be interviewed at a later date to explore their experience with the process and to determine if the CHIA had any influence on their decision-making process.</p>
<p>Other comments (e.g. Purpose, main values)</p>	<p>PATH is an initiative that focuses on engaging people at the community level in the decision making process by validating citizen knowledge. It is based on community development and health promotion principles and values.</p>

Last update: May 2010



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy