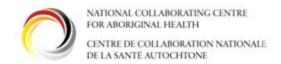# Applying HIA: the People Assessing Their Health (PATH) process

PATH network

"A network of groups and individuals sharing ideas and resources to build healthy communities…"

Eaton, S. (2009). *A Brief History of Path*. National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy. Retrieved February 27, 2012 from: http://www.ncchpp.ca/133/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=290

PATH Process: CHIA

- Community Health Impact Assessment

  + Citizen engagement
  + Constructivist conception of health
  + Focus on opportunities for health

Two different definitions of healthy community

Example 1:

http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/pdfs/Final%20Canso%20CHIAT%20July%204%202005.pdf

Example 2:

http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/pdfs/Pictou%20County%20CHIAT%20_Final%20-%20May%2015%202006.pdf

PATH Case Study

- Keppoch-Beaver Mountain Project (KBMP)

- Four-season recreation project in rural northeastern Nova Scotia
  - Nordic and alpine skiing
  - hiking, nature walks, etc.

- $27 million
  - "Summit Centre" at top of mountain
  - parking for 400
  - new roads, etc.

Eaton, S. (2010). *Community*-driven *Health Impact Assessment – CHIA*. Presentation given on March 9. 2010 during the Pre-symposium session at the Vibrant Communities Symposium.

Powerpoint Presentation.

Case Study cont'd . . .

- KBM project sponsored by municipal government (Antigonish County)

- Significant citizen opposition due to cost, expropriation of land, disruption of rural life

- Significant citizen support due to health benefits, tourism, jobs, etc.

Source: Eaton, S. (2010). *Community*-driven *Health Impact Assessment – CHIA*. Presentation given on March 9. 2010 during the Pre-symposium session at the Vibrant Communities Symposium. Powerpoint Presentation.

Case Study cont'd . . .

- Enter **community health impact assessment!**

- Proposed by both citizens and the District Health Authority

- Used CHIA Tool (CHIAT) developed by the local Community Health Board in 2002

- Process overseen by Antigonish Regional Development Authority working with PATH Network

Eaton, S. (2010). *Community*-driven *Health Impact Assessment – CHIA*. Presentation given on March 9. 2010 during the Pre-symposium session at the Vibrant Communities Symposium. Powerpoint Presentation.

Case Study cont'd . . .

- 14 citizens (one from each of 10 electoral districts plus 4 to balance)

- Commitment to 6 hours over two nights

- Facilitated by PATH Network members
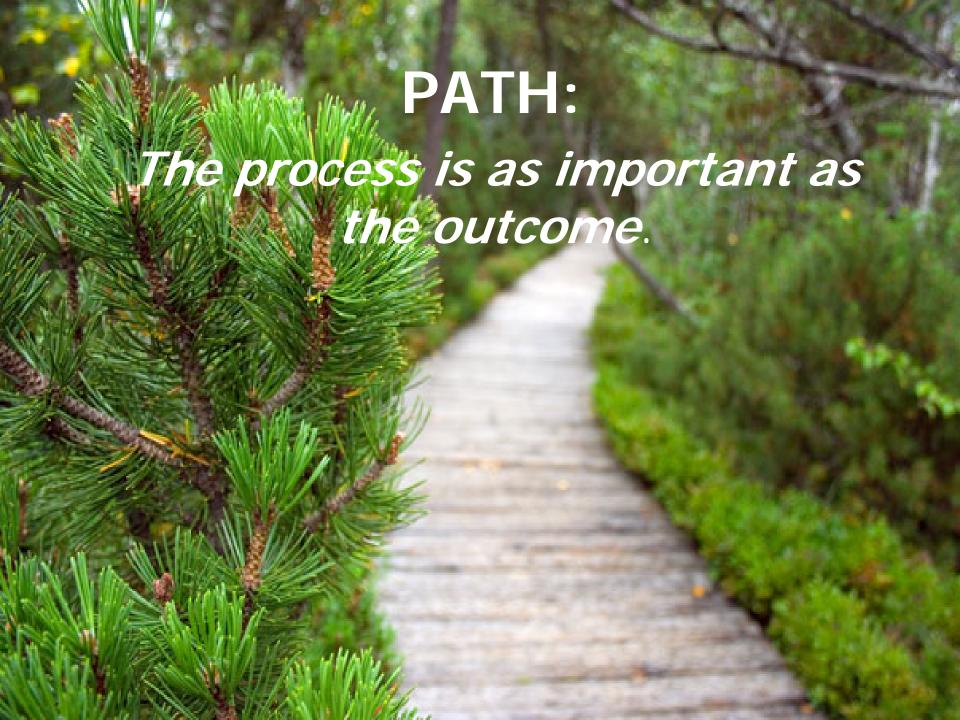
- Report prepared by PATH Network members

Eaton, S. (2010). *Community*-driven *Health Impact Assessment – CHIA*. Presentation given on March 9. 2010 during the Pre-symposium session at the Vibrant Communities Symposium. Powerpoint Presentation.

Case Study cont'd . . .

The end of the story:

– Council received the report

– 3 months later, announced there would be no expropriation of land

– 8 months later, announced that project was being cancelled due to lack of community support and funding issues

Effect of CHIA on municipal government?

Eaton, S. (2010). *Community*-driven *Health Impact Assessment – CHIA*. Presentation given on March 9. 2010 during the Pre-symposium session at the Vibrant Communities Symposium. Powerpoint Presentation.

PATH:

The process is as important as the outcome.

Questions & Discussion

Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé

National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec

NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

CENTRE DE COLLABORATION NATIONALE
DE LA SANTÉ AUTOCHTONE