

**From:** Erica Westwood<contact information removed>  
**Sent:** July 13, 2016 12:43 PM  
**To:** EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)  
**Subject:** Commentary on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel

Hello,

First, I would like to express my thanks that the Federal Government has taken the opportunity to review the environmental assessment (EA) process. I have one major comment on the Expert Panel; I would like to request that human health be considered in this review.

Historically, during EA in Canada, health has been considered in a haphazard manner depending on the project yet a specific examination of human health has not been mandated. As a result, community health and well-being can be overlooked in industrial development projects, which later requires government and proponents to react to issues as opposed to preventing health challenges at the onset of a project. This is neither beneficial for the proponent nor the community. Focussing on health, and specifically the broad range of factors that can affect the health of our communities has also become important for considering health issues that are unique to Aboriginal peoples. While “community development” is mentioned in the Draft Terms of Reference, there is no explicit mention of health, which has a different focus than community development. If the panel were to examine how public health is considered in EA, we as a nation could improve our EA process to become more meaningful for citizens, and to lead the field on an international scale.

I would also like to be included on any distribution lists related to this Expert Review. Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Erica Westwood

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