

Lambton Community Health Study: An Update

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What is the Lambton County Health Study?

- ◉ Response to concerns about effects of the local environment on our health
- ◉ Making the connection between environmental exposures and human health
- ◉ In 2006, 2007 community agreed that a study of the health effects associated with exposure to environmental emissions is a public health priority
- ◉ Aamjiwnaang is represented on Board of Directors
- ◉ We want to ensure it is Scientifically-sound
- ◉ Independently Peer-reviewed
- ◉ <http://www.lambtonhealthstudy.ca>

Background

- ◉ 2005: Aamjiwnaang First Nation called upon the government to fund a community-based health study
- ◉ 2006: Stakeholder group first meets
- ◉ 2008: Board membership solidified
- ◉ 2010: Literature Review and Community-Engagement
- ◉ 2011: No funding, where do we go from here?

The Board

- ◉ Warden (former) Jim Burns (Chair)
- ◉ Energy and Paper Workers Union
- ◉ Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- ◉ City of Sarnia
- ◉ Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation
- ◉ Ontario Health Centre for Occupational Workers
- ◉ Lambton County Medical Officer of Health
- ◉ Sarnia Community Roundtable
- ◉ Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce
- ◉ Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association
- ◉ Township of St. Clair Township
- ◉ Victims of Chemical Valley
- ◉ Village of Point Edward
- ◉ Secretary, County of Lambton

Phase One

- ◎ Establishment of a community-based governance structure
- ◎ Board of Directors identified
- ◎ Phase completed June 2008
 - *Lambton Community Health Study Board Manual*
 - *was developed*

Phase Two

- Research questions, call for proposals, broad-based community consultation
- \$75,000 Budget for Phase Two
 - \$50,000 Provincial
 - \$15,000 Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association
 - \$10,000 Chamber of Commerce
- Comprehensive literature review - \$50,000
 - Completed and online December 2010
- Community engagement
 - Three components:
 - Phone survey – 500 people randomly selected - \$20,000
 - Online survey – Open from November 5th 2010-December 31st 2010
 - In-kind service from Lambton County
 - 194 participants from Lambton County
 - Five Open Houses - \$7,000
- Development of a call for proposals for Phase Three

Phase Three?

- ⦿ Undertaking the identified study(ies)
- ⦿ Communication of the results to Lambton residents and stakeholder groups
- ⦿ Identification of next steps and remedial initiatives, if required.”
- ⦿ Who should fund the remedial initiatives if required?

Challenges

- If the connection to environmental exposures and human health is proven what will happen?
- What specific study is needed, we only have one chance to ensure we are doing this right for the protection of the county's health
- Lack of funds: This is an under-funded study
- "In-kind" service
- Health Canada? Where are they? Need to relay our message of concern to the politicians and funding agencies because they are absent in this process
- Independent Process Observer
- Survey respondents, both through on line and telephone indicated importance of the health study

Future Directions

- ◎ The Lambton Community Health Study encompasses 11 municipalities
- ◎ Some communities are more heavily impacted than others
- ◎ What involvement should frontline communities have in these kinds of community-based health studies?

Conclusion and Discussion

- ◉ Who should fund a community health study?
- ◉ Which communities should be the focus?
- ◉ Who decides “what” will be studied?
- ◉ Is this study working for Aamjiwnaang?
- ◉ What does a good study look like?
- ◉ What is the purpose of another health study?