Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

FAAR Response must be submitted by September 29, 2026

Eastern Bridge Project – Public Services and Procurement Canada – Ontario and Quebec

Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR) Reference Number: 90709

Department/Agency	Health Canada
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1. Will your department or agency exercise a **power, perform a duty or function**, or provide **financial assistance**, related to the project to enable it to be carried out in whole or in part?

   As relevant,
   a) Specify the power, duty or function, or financial assistance, and the likelihood that it will be required to construct the project, based on the Initial Project Description, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required;
   b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines;
   c) Describe any associated information requirements (e.g., alternative means assessment, habitat offsetting) and specify those that may be coordinated with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required;
   d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide; and
   e) Indicate whether your department or agency has identified any power that it will not be exercising or may not be able to exercise to allow the project to be carried out, in whole or in part.

   No, Health Canada will not exercise a power, perform a duty or function or provide financial assistance related to the project.

2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate[1] and the information in your possession, including the Initial Project

[1] Refer to the Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC.

Description, any exchanges with the proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects of the project.

Please note for designated projects that are a *federal work or undertaking,* such as an interprovincial bridge, per section 2 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, adverse effects within federal jurisdiction takes on a broader meaning and includes any non-negligible adverse effects on environmental, health, social or economic conditions.

For each key issue:

a) Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location);
b) Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue;
c) Explain why it's a key issue based on:
    i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity;
    ii. concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate;
    iii. the issue being material[2] to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act;*
d) Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment (e.g., other regulatory oversight); and
e) Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

Joel Kaushansky
Regional Impact Assessment Specialist, Environmental Assessment Division, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch

Name and title of Departmental / Agency Responder

September 29, 2026

Date

[2] An issue is material to decision making if its analysis is anticipated to affect the conclusions on (1) whether adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct and incidental adverse effects (collectively adverse federal effects) are likely not significant, or of low, medium or high significance; (2) appropriate mitigation measures for significant adverse federal effects; or (3) justification in the public interest.

Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process

This table should outline key issues to inform the impact assessment process, including whether an impact assessment is required and, if so, the scope of the assessment and tailoring of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Key issues are the major concerns directly related to a project component or activity, the analysis of which is anticipated to be material to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*.
Federal authorities' advice should be guided by the identification and resolution of key issues. If an impact assessment is required, it will be focused on key issues.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the proponent

Identify comments by organization and comment number.
 	
e.g.: IAAC-01
	Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).	*Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.*
		
		Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.
			Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).	*Describe why it's a key issue within the mandate of your department or agency, including in terms of priorities of the federal government and in terms of anticipated likelihood, severity or uncertainty of effects.*
				
				Identify if the key issue is common for projects of this nature or in this sector, or whether it's unique to this project due to its complexity, size or novelty; a sensitive or rare receiving environment; and/or proximity of sensitive environmental or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples).
					Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:
					• *an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:*
					  ○ *federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;*
					  ○ *presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);*
					  ○ *novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;*
					  ○ *high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;*
					  ○ *unknown or unproven mitigation; or*
					• *a factor for the justification in the public interest anticipated to be material to decision-making such as a likely positive effect contributing to sustainability, to Canada's environmental obligations or climate change commitments or in supporting governmental priorities, such as reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.*
						Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:
						• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;*
						• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;*
						• *Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or*
						• *Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).*
							Describe information the proponent can provide, or commitments the proponent can make, in their Response to the Summary of Issues that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means.
							
							Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.

HC-01	**Effects to human health** Human health, including the health of Indigenous Peoples[3], may be impacted by air emissions from the project's operations phase.	**Project-related air emissions from commercial trucks and vehicles during the operations phase of the project** The project's operations phase is anticipated to commence in 2035	**Air impacts on human health generated during the operations phase of the project via inhalation and ingestion (e.g., deposition on home garden produce) of air contaminants**	**Air impacts on human health, which may result in residual adverse effects, are within Health Canada's mandate** Air quality impacts on human health, including the health of Indigenous Peoples, arising from	**The key issue would correspond to an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction that is non-negligible based on available evidence and given the presence of sensitive human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples)** The air impacts on human health generated during the operations phase are material to federal decision-making as the likelihood of adverse residual effects is high due to the	**During the operations phase of the project, assess air emissions against health-based guidelines, apply standard air quality mitigation measures, and implement a comprehensive risk communication initiative** To address the air impacts on human health, including the health of Indigenous Peoples, generated	The Proponent could commit to using appropriate health-based air quality standards, implementing proposed mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring (if required), and developing/implementing a risk communication plan to resolve issues.

[3] According to Statistics Canada's 2021 Census, the were 46,540 Indigenous People in Ottawa -Gatineau, comprising 3.2% of the population [link].

	Health Canada perceives the increased truck and vehicle traffic, and consequent elevated levels of air pollution, in the residential neighbourhoods of both Quebec and Ontario as a key issue. The Initial Project Description acknowledges that the project intends to divert commercial trucks from Ottawa's urban core to an area with "low-income and vulnerable populations [who] may be disproportionately affected" [pdf pg. 253]. In addition, numerous sensitive receptors (i.e., school, daycare facility, hospital) [pdf p. 196-198] are identified within the	[pdf p. 99] and last at least 100 years. Project-related air emissions from commercial trucks and cars (e.g., diesel exhaust, gasoline exhaust, dust) may impact human health, including the health of Indigenous Peoples.	Given the project's extended lifespan (pdf pg.99) and close proximity to numerous sensitive receptors (i.e., school, daycare facility, hospital) [pdf p. 196-198], it is recommended that the operations phase impacts to air, and subsequent impacts on human health, including the health of Indigenous Peoples, be considered as a key issue.	the project's operations phase fall within Health Canada's priority areas. The Department is responsible for addressing air pollutant hazards that affect Canadians and for working with partners to reduce these risks. This key issue is common for the operation of new transportation infrastructure (e.g., bridges, roads) built within close physical proximity to existing residential neighbourhoods. The likelihood of adverse residual effects is high due to the project's close physical proximity to human receptors, including sensitive receptors (i.e., school, daycare facility, hospital) [pdf p. 196-198], and the predicted elevated concentrations of air pollutants[4], some of which (e.g., $PM_{2.5}$,	project's close proximity to human receptors, including Indigenous and other sensitive receptors (i.e., school, daycare facility, hospital) [pdf p. 196-198]. Some of the air pollutants[5] (e.g., $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2) with predicted elevated concentrations, due the project's operations are known for non-threshold effects, meaning adverse health effects may occur at any level of exposure in a population. Any additional emissions of these pollutants from the project may increase the number of affected individuals and/or the severity of the health effects they experience.	during the operations phase, Health Canada recommends the following: • in addition to using the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards, the Ontario Ambient Air Quality Standards, and the Quebec Air Quality Standards to inform air quality management [pdf p.232], use the World Health Organization's Global Air Quality Guidelines, which are based exclusively on health evidence and are intended to protect public health, including sensitive populations; • if the air quality assessments determine any project-specific mitigation measures or follow-up monitoring are needed, these could be captured in the project conditions; • installation of permanent physical barriers, where feasible, in urban neighbourhoods along the project route to minimize the dispersion of air contaminants[6,7,8,9]; and, • develop and implement a comprehensive risk	

[4] Refer to Table 1-4: Delta of Current and Predicted Air Quality Impacts on Corridor 5 – Ottawa Downtown and Table 1-5: Difference of Current and Predicted Air Quality Impacts on Corridor 5 – Gatineau in WSP. 2024c. *Additional Interprovincial Bridge Crossing Study: Corridor Options Analysis for Corridors 5 and 7: Air Quality (draft)*. Prepared for the National Capital Commission.

[5] Refer to Table 1-4: Delta of Current and Predicted Air Quality Impacts on Corridor 5 – Ottawa Downtown and Table 1-5: Difference of Current and Predicted Air Quality Impacts on Corridor 5 – Gatineau in WSP. 2024c. *Additional Interprovincial Bridge Crossing Study: Corridor Options Analysis for Corridors 5 and 7: Air Quality (draft)*. Prepared for the National Capital Commission.

[6] Abhijith, K.V., Kumar, P., Gallagher, J. et al. *Air pollution abatement performances of green infrastructure in open road and built-up street canyon environments – A review.* Atmospheric Environment 162 (2017): 71–86 [link]

[7] Gallagher, J., Baldauf, R., Fuller, C.H. et al. *Passive methods for improving air quality in the built environment: A review.* Atmospheric Environment 120 (2015): 61–70 [link]

[8] Barwise, Y. & Kumar, P. *Designing vegetation barriers for urban air pollution abatement: A practical review for appropriate plant species selection.* Climate and Atmospheric Science 3, 12 (2020) [link]

[9] United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Recommendations for Constructing Roadside Vegetation Barriers* (2016) [link]

	project area and local study area . It is recommended that these aforementioned receptors be included in consideration of key issues.			NO_2) are considered as being non-threshold in their effects at the population level.		communication initiative, including a public complaint and response mechanism, to help ensure that potentially affected communities are meaningfully informed about the project's air quality-related health risks.	

Please insert additional rows as necessary.