Research Team

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Project Overview

- Mining and other extractive industries can have significant implications for health and well-being
  - Physical, social, cultural, economic, environmental
  - Direct, indirect
- Impact assessment processes have emerged:
  - Environmental (EIA)
  - Social (SIA)
  - Health (HIA)
Project Aim

To assess the range of potential impacts of mining activities on local social-ecological systems, health, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and the potential afforded by Health Impact Assessment to assist communities, organizations, and mining companies in anticipating and mitigating such impacts.
Project Objectives

What are the pathways through which mining development influences Indigenous Peoples’ health and well-being?

How are Indigenous Peoples’ health and well-being meanings, experiences, priorities, and concerns represented and included in EIA, SIA and HIA?

How have HIA been, and how can they be implemented in, and by, Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or mining companies to assess the well-being impacts of mining projects on Indigenous lands? What are the best practices of HIA to support community mobilization and influence decision-making?
Scoping review of the scientific literature

• **Research question:** what are the political, social, economic and cultural pathways through which mining development influences Indigenous Peoples’ and communities’ health and well-being?

1200 articles

Screened by title

547 articles

Reviewed by abstract

80 articles

Currently undergoing full text review
There are many dimensions of health and well-being for Indigenous Peoples:
Social-ecological determinants of Indigenous Peoples’ health and well-being

**Proximal:** child development, housing, employment, income and social status, education and literacy, food security, culture, gender.

**Intermediate:** health care, social supports, education, and justice systems, labour market.

**Distal:** Historical, political, economic, and social foundations, including Indigenous worldviews, spirituality, and self-determination.

Reading and Wein, 2015
And we need to consider...

**Temporality:** the impacts of mining development extend from exploration to decommissioning of the mine.

**Geography:** the impacts vary depending on the area, the context, and the community in which it occurs.

**Differential impacts:** varying effects based on gender and age
Next steps and current takeaways

Incorporating other ideas from a non-Indigenous context to fill in our understandings

1. Mechanisms particularly affect Indigenous Peoples because they target the specific determinants of health for Indigenous communities

2. Many of these mechanisms may not be currently included in Western assessments of the impacts of mining projects

Continuing full text analysis

Snowball searching
How are Indigenous Peoples’ and communities’ health and well-being meanings and experiences, priorities and concerns represented and included in EIA, SIA and HIA?

Masters Project Proposal

• Critical discourse analysis of EIA, SIA, and HIA reports and public hearings for mining projects on Indigenous lands in Canada.

• Additionally, looking to do interviews with community leaders to assess the degree to which people understand their interests to be represented, as well as assess barriers to participation.
PhD Project Proposal

How have HIA been, and how can they be implemented in, and by, Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or mining companies to assess the well-being impacts of mining projects on Indigenous lands? What are the best practices of HIA to support community mobilization and influence decision-making?
Mining Activities, Health, and Well-being in Indigenous Communities

MinErAL Network 3rd Annual Meeting, Cairns, Australia
June 13, 2019

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