

# **WSR Draft EA Summary Videos- Human Health**

## **Script for Project Description**

Human Health is one part of many in an environmental assessment process – and is the topic of this learning module.

Before we get into our subject on human health, let's review the proposed Webequie Supply Road project and the study area.

The proposed Webequie Supply Road is going through the environmental assessment process, which is being led by Webequie First Nation.

There are many parts to an environmental assessment – which studies the physical and human environment.

There are more than 20 chapters in the environmental assessment.

The studies are focused in the area along the proposed 107 kilometre long route from the Webequie airport to the Ring of Fire.

There are two parts to the study area which guide the effects assessment.

First, the local study area or L-S-A - is a one kilometre corridor that extends all the way around the centreline of the proposed road.

The second part is a wider area is known as the Regional Study Area or R-S-A – and that's a five kilometre corridor that extends all the way around the centreline of the proposed road. Both the L-S-A and the R-S-A includes Webequie First Nation Reserve and traditional lands and the Ring of Fire area.

Now let's delve into health and well being and some of the concerns that have been raised by community members.

There are worries about water pollution from industrial activities.

So, the people want strong protections to keep drinking water, lakes, and rivers clean.

Air pollution and dust from the project could cause breathing problems and harm plants and animals.

People are also concerned about how land changes could affect hunting, fishing, and gathering.

People also worry about stress from environmental changes affecting their mental and emotional health.

There is a big worry surrounding social impacts such as effects on social connections, cultural continuity, and safety for women, girls, and all community members.

These concerns are important to understanding how the project may affect these relationships, traditions, and overall well-being.

The people want to make sure they can protect their health and traditions so that they can continue passing down culture and traditions to future generations.

There are mixed feelings about jobs from development.

Some people want jobs but worry they won't be long-term or won't go to local workers.

Others worry that jobs in industry might not be safe or could replace traditional ways of making a living, like trapping and guiding.

Many feel that past projects have not listened to community concerns.

They want stronger agreements that protect their rights and include them in decision-making.

They also want better access to information about risks and how decisions are made.

We will assess and address the social impacts of the project.

There will be a focus on social connections, cultural continuity, and safety - particularly for women, girls, and vulnerable community members.

We will work with Indigenous communities to identify how the project may affect relationships, traditional knowledge transfer, and overall well-being.

To support those social connections, we will engage with community members to understand how the project might influence family structures, social networks, and shared spaces.

We will make sure to combine Indigenous Knowledge into all aspects

This will help make sure that cultural traditions, language, and land-based practices are protected and keep going.

For community safety, we will identify possible risks like increased violence, human trafficking, substance use, and changes in community dynamics.

We will work with local leadership, social services, and law enforcement to develop strategies that prioritize safety and prevent harm.

To promote a healthy and safe community, we will make sure the project does not negatively impact essential resources like clean water, housing, food security, and access to health care.

We'll also help support and strengthen community support services and economic opportunities that align with community values.

Our approach will be informed by ongoing engagement.

We'll work closely with Indigenous communities to ensure that all concerns are addressed with meaningful actions.

Here are some key takeaways from this learning module:

Communities want a healthier future that prioritizes clean water, safe housing, access to nutritious food, and strong health care services.

The people want to protect their cultural traditions, language, and land-based practices while ensuring economic opportunities that align with their values.

Safety is a key concern, especially for women, girls, and other vulnerable members.

We understand there's a need for stronger community supports, mental health services, and protections against violence and substance use.

We also understand that the community wants to strengthen social connections - so that families and future generations can thrive in a community that is resilient, self-sustaining, and culturally strong.

We're going to be monitoring many things during and after construction:

There will be monitoring that will focus on water quality, air pollution, and wildlife health.

Indigenous Knowledge will be used alongside scientific data.

Regular updates will be shared with the community, and if problems arise, immediate action will be taken to fix them.