

June Porter's view on incorporating assessing the health impact decision making and polices

I recently had a great conversation with Jason Wepler of Grey Bruce Public Health (agreed to having his name published) to hear their perspectives regarding the key role elected officials have in ensuring that we assess the impact of decisions and creating policies has on the health of our residents. As a Registered Nurse I fully appreciate the need to assess the health impact on the policies and decisions related to:

- Agriculture, food and nutrition
- Childcare
- Economic development (including Tourism)
- Housing
- Industry
- Nutrition
- Transport
- Urbanization
- Waste and Water management

A health impact assessment (HIA) is a combination of procedures, methods, and tools that allow for the strategic evaluation and assessment of the health or social impacts of a policy, plan, or project. HIAs provide information to decision-makers and stakeholders about the intended and unintended consequences arising from an activity, and make recommendations to maximize positive and mitigate negative health impacts for affected populations. This could be of particular importance with respect to the widening of 26.

As a candidate for Councillor and a Registered Nurse I support the Grey Bruce Health Unit for encouraging all candidates to take a "Health in All Policies" position in the lead-up to the 2018 election. Embedding an assessment of health impacts within policy and council's decision-making process is important to the long-term health of the residents of our community.