



*Shale gas extraction and public health: What we know, what we can infer, and how we can move forwards.*

Canadian Public Health Association 2014 conference, NCCEH Panel

The panel session was designed to provide a basic understanding of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing and to describe its impact on public health. Furthermore, this panel sought to identify important aspects to consider for provinces that are currently pursuing, or considering pursuing, the extraction of shale gas using hydraulic fracturing.

Specifically, the objectives of the panel were to:

- introduce the concept of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing;
- describe the public health impacts of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing;
- identify important aspects to consider when making public health decisions surrounding shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing;
- provide provincial perspectives related to the public health impacts of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing.

The panel consisted of the following three speakers:

- Merry Turtiak, Environmental Public Health Scientist, Alberta Health
- Gaétan Carrier, Médecin-conseil, Direction de la santé environnementale et de la toxicologie, Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Karen White, Director of Healthy Environments, New Brunswick Department of Health