

Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project:

Update for CASA

Feb 12, 2019

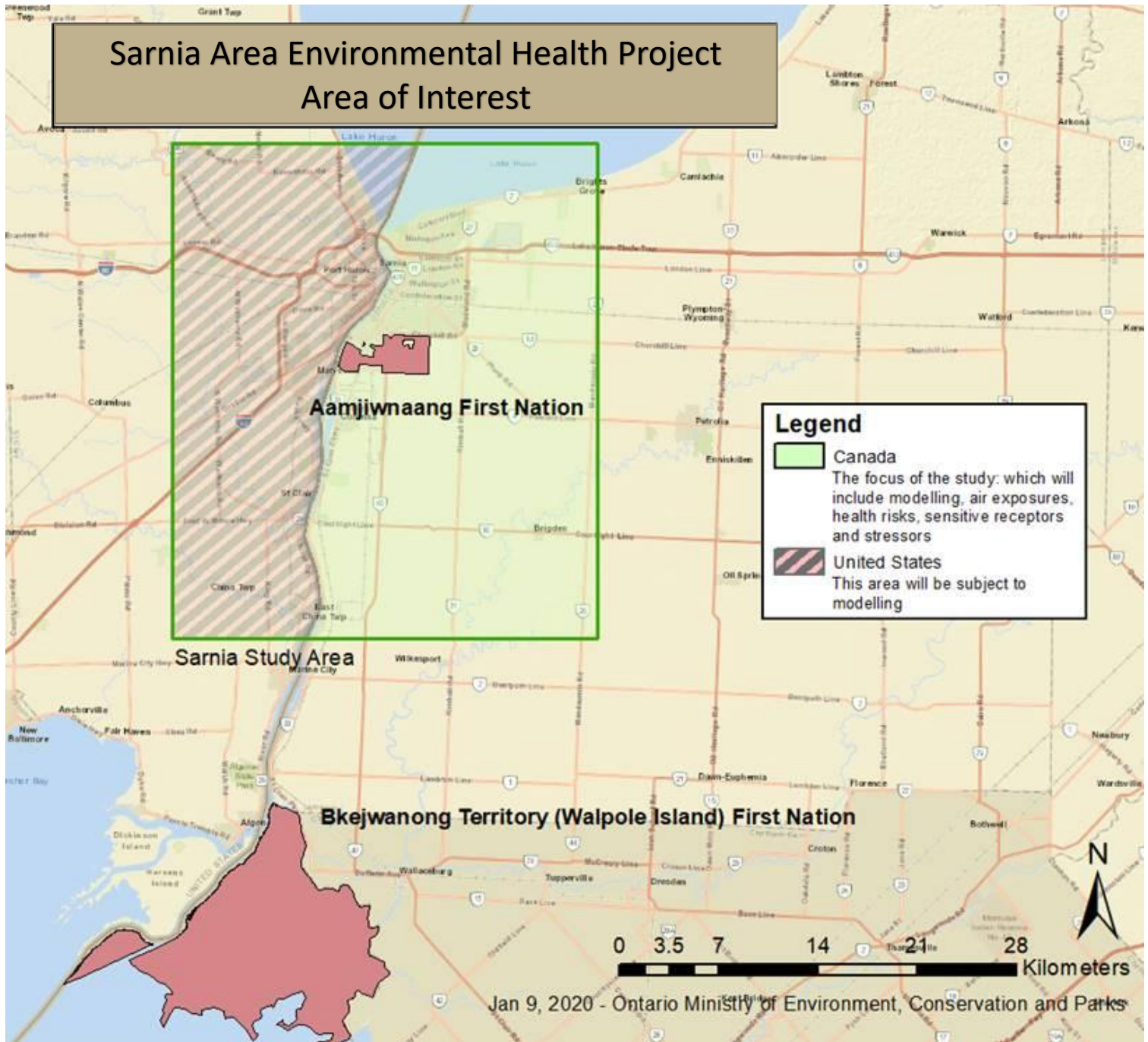
Purpose

Provide a status update on the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project

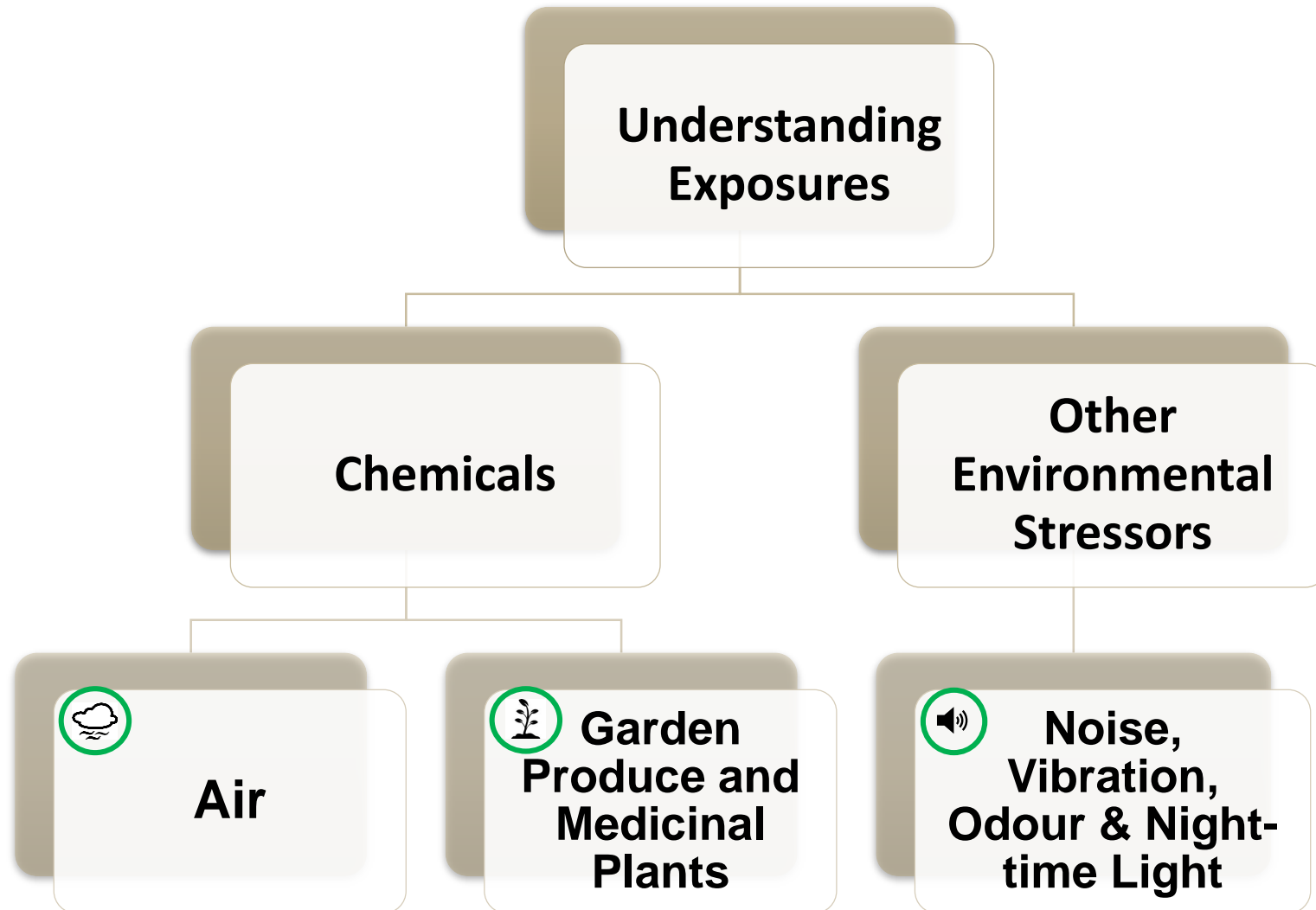
Background

- The Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project (the Project) is an initiative under the Sarnia Air Action Plan for better air quality.
- Part of the *Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan* - Project addresses concerns about air pollution and other environmental stressors from local industries in the Sarnia area. The project will help enhance our understanding of the links between environment and health in the community.
- Ministry worked with Aamjiwnaang First Nation, federal and provincial government partners, health agencies, municipalities, industry and others to establish an approach for the Project.
 - Informed by work carried out by the Lambton Community Health Study Board, 2008-2016.

Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project Area of Interest



Project Focus





1. Air Exposure Review

An assessment of exposures to chemicals in air and associated health risks.

Vendor procured to undertake Air Exposure Review:

- Vendor qualifications: Human Health Risk Assessments, evaluating air contaminant exposures, knowledge translation, community engagement

MECP has undertaken foundational work to support the review:

- Compile and organize available air monitoring data
- Screen chemicals, to focus review on chemicals of potential concern
- Model selected key chemicals of potential concern (benzene, B[a]P, 1,3-butadiene, SO₂, PM_{2.5})



2. Garden Produce & Medicinal Plants

An evaluation chemicals associated with air pollution in garden produce and medicinal plants and potential exposures when consumed/used.

Ministry is working with Aamjiwnaang First Nation, federal agencies, and a potential academic lead to plan a field study.

Ministry is also reviewing and summarizing existing information from past studies in the area.



3. Environmental Stressors Review

Characterizing how quality of life is impacted by disturbances from industrial operations (e.g., noise/vibration, odour, and light).

Ministry working with partners on information gathering and further project planning.

- Ministry is reviewing its own data related to complaints and incidents in the study area.
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation is collecting community experiences.
- Ministry is also exploring how to leverage work by industry, municipalities and government to enhance communications during incidents and emergencies.

Timeframe and Next Steps

Timeframe:

- 2-year project (completion by early 2022)
- Community meetings every ~6 months

Next steps:

- **Form Advisory Committee** with representatives from local stakeholders (including industry, community groups), local First Nations communities, government agencies.
- **Community kickoff meetings** with Aamjiwnaang First Nation and broader Sarnia community (March, TBC).

Ministry Contact Info

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