

WAGE Comments on Focal Area

(NLNS) Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia - Regional Assessment (RA)

WAGE has no comments on the location of the proposed focus area. However, we wanted to verify that the current wording in the [Agreement and ToR](#) **does not exclude GBV (gender-based violence) impact evaluation.**

Context:

- As per the [Proposed Focus Area - We Request Your Feedback \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#), one of the focus areas is “any other potential impacts to the environmental, social, health, and economic components set out in the Terms of Reference [ToR]” (pg. 1).
- Regarding the Agreement and ToR, in March 2023, WAGE provided input on additional data source that could be applicable to the RA. Our comments were in line with section “Other Considerations and Requirements” of the draft Agreement and ToR. These comments were largely related to the inclusion of GBV as part of a GBA Plus assessment and as a public health issue.
- Our previously proposed changes to the final [Agreement and ToR](#) wording were not included; however, the final Agreement does state the following, which captures what we wanted to convey:
 - “WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador acknowledge that sustainable development seeks to attain a balance between economic activity and its benefits, environmental protections, and the health, social, and economic well-being of people and communities” (pg. 1)

Under *Other Consideration and Requirements* (pg. 17):

- “r) Consider the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors and make recommendations on the manner in which future impact assessments should consider and address these factors.”
- “s) Take into account any scientific information, Indigenous knowledge — including the knowledge of Indigenous women — and Community knowledge provided with respect to the Regional Assessment, as per the requirements of subsection 97(2) of the IAA.”

Seeking validation from IAAC: In this context, social/health components are quite large, and we want to ensure that WAGE’s comments related to GBV will be considered.