



HEALTH TASK GROUP

Final Report Presentation to the OMT



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BACKGROUND



- ❑ The Health Task Group formed in 2013 to undertake the work listed under 'Health' in the OMT's Project Charter.
- ❑ The Health Task Group developed a workplan with two streams of work including specific deliverables.
- ❑ The Health Task Group would like to thank Alberta Health for their in-kind contribution to the development of the backgrounder on odour and health.
- ❑ The Health Task Group would like to thank Natasha Windsor from Alberta Health for preparing the tool prototypes.
- ❑ The Health Task Group would like to thank their members, all reviewers, and pilot testing participants.

MEMBERSHIP



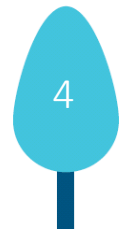
- Dr. Rocky Feroe, Alberta Environmental Network
- Dr. Alvaro Osornio-Vargas, University of Alberta/The Lung Association
- Cindy Quintero, Hinton Pulp
- Brendan Schiewe, Alberta Health
- Opel Vuzi, Health Canada
- Kaitlyn Wall, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD)
- Bob Scotten, Corresponding Member; Alberta Airsheds Council
- Dr. Irena Buka - Corresponding Member; University of Alberta
- Dr. Karina Thomas – Former member; ESRD
- Laurie Cheperdak – Former member; Alberta Health

TASK GROUP OBJECTIVES



The project charter outlines one objective under Health.

1. To improve the management of odour and odour complaints by identifying, understanding, and developing tools and strategies to address health concerns and issues.



WORKPLAN OVERVIEW



Stream 1 work:

- Prepare a backgrounder about odour and health for inclusion in the good practice guide.
- Share information about odour and health with the team to help build common understanding.

Stream 2 work:

- A tool for individuals to track the health-related impacts of odour.
- A plan for distributing the tool.



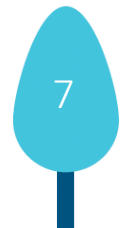


TASK GROUP IMPLEMENTATION & BUDGET



In order to complete these two streams of work, the task group:

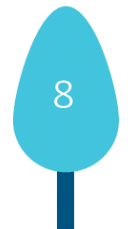
- ❑ Met 12 times, including two 1.5 day workshops,
- ❑ Read over 500 pages of background material,
- ❑ Spent over 550 in-kind hours in and between meetings developing and reviewing deliverables, and
- ❑ Came in significantly under budget.



STREAM 1 WORK – BACKGROUNDER



- **Intended Audience**
 - Government and industry (but can easily be understood by the public)
- **Scope**
 - Clarify what's known and now known about the relationship between odour and health
 - Build understanding about odour and health
 - Present information using a non-judgmental tone
- **Deliverables**
 - A document/presentation to the team to use as background information and to build common understanding about odour and health, including a glossary of terms.
 - Consensus background material for inclusion in the good practice guide.



STREAM 1 WORK – BACKGROUNDER



- Task Group Members prepared a table of contents and then drafted each section.
- The group worked together to refine the content of the backgrounder and to align it with the overall vision.
- Hired a writer to edit the document for readability and prepare an executive summary and glossary.
- Agreed by consensus to accept the backgrounder recommendation for inclusion in the Good Practice Guide.

Executive Summary	1
1 Introduction.....	2
2 Why do people have a sense of smell?.....	3
2.1 Chemical binding of odorants.....	3
2.2 Processing of olfactory signals in the brain.....	4
2.3 Factors influencing the sense of smell.....	4
3 How do irritant and nuisance effects differ?.....	5
3.1 Irritant effects:	5
3.2 Nuisance effects:	5
3.3 Combined irritant and nuisance effects.....	6
4 Reported health effects.....	7
4.1 Effects on physical wellbeing.....	7
4.2 Effects on psychological wellbeing.....	7
4.3 Effects on social wellbeing.....	8
5 Limitations and challenges.....	9
5.1 Limitations and research gaps.....	9
5.2 Challenges of linking odours and health effects.....	11
6 Conclusion.....	12
Glossary.....	13
Literature cited:	14

REFLECTIONS ON DELIVERABLE

Challenges:

- There are many research gaps and unknowns.
- Lack of consistency around odour-related definitions in this field.

Comments on finished product:

- The group's review was extensive but they acknowledge that they likely have not captured all available information.
- The backgrounder attempts to reflect the diversity and varying interpretations of the task group members.

STREAM 2 WORK – SYMPTOM AND ODOUR TRACKING TOOL



- Intended Audience
 - A tool for individuals to track health-related impacts of odour.
- Scope
 - Short (1-page);
 - Generic (not industry or chemical specific);
 - Focus on the individual;
 - Capture all self-reported symptoms;
 - Make no judgement about symptoms (not a diagnostic tool)

STREAM 2 WORK – SYMPTOM AND ODOUR TRACKING TOOL



□ Deliverables

- An inventory of best practices and tools for individuals (and potentially health care professionals) to track the health-related impacts of odour.
- An analysis of the inventory of best practices to track the health-related impacts of odour.
- A tool for individuals (and potentially health care professionals) to track the health-related impacts of odour.
- A plan for distributing the record keeping tool to relevant organizations.

STREAM 2 WORK – SYMPTOM AND ODOUR TRACKING TOOL



- Members gathered information about currently available tools for tracking the health-related impacts of odour.
- Members discussed what needed to be included in the tool and developed a prototype.
- Members reviewed and discussed the prototype and pilot-tested it for usability.

Symptom and Odour Tracking Tool

If this is an emergency, call 911. This form is for non-emergency situations only. Use this form to record any symptoms that you think are related to an odour you have noticed. Bring the completed form to appointments with your health care professional to help with the diagnosis and treatment of the symptoms or underlying conditions. Once completed, this form contains personal health information; it is your responsibility to protect your information appropriately.

About this form:

Add a new individual record for each day that you experience an odour event that you associate with a symptom. Additional symptoms and odours can be added to each individual record if required (e.g. if a meal of mutton and rotten eggs in the same day, had a headache followed by trouble sleeping (insomnia)).

Symptom Details		Symptom Description, other relevant information
Date	<input type="text"/>	
Time	<input type="text"/>	
Location (home, work, etc)	<input type="text"/>	
Intensity (0-5)	<input type="text"/>	
End the symptom come and go during the day?	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="button" value="Add Symptoms"/>		<input type="button" value="Remove Symptoms"/>

Odour Details		Odour Description, other relevant information
Date	<input type="text"/>	
Time	<input type="text"/>	
Location (home, work, etc)	<input type="text"/>	
Intensity (0-5)	<input type="text"/>	
End the odour come and go during the day?	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="button" value="Add Odours"/>		<input type="button" value="Remove Odours"/>

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This tool is intended to assist individuals in recording details of their health in relation to odour exposure. This form is not intended to be medical advice nor is it intended to replace interaction with your physician.

STREAM 2 WORK – PILOT TESTING

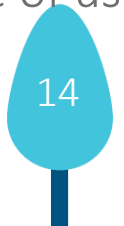


The goals of pilot testing the tool were:

- ❑ To ensure ease of use, comprehensiveness and comprehensibility.
- ❑ To test aesthetics and format.
- ❑ To test wording of symptom intensity scale.

Overall the pilot testing:

- ❑ Used a pragmatic approach.
- ❑ Had 24 respondents.
- ❑ The tool was well received.
- ❑ The task group used the results to update the tool to improve overall ease of use.





ADVICE TO THE OMT

The task group provides advice to the OMT:

- Related to graphic design
 - ✓ Make the tool as computer/print friendly as possible
 - ✓ Branding consistent with the GPG

- Related to distributing the tool
 - ✓ Post on recommended partner websites
 - ✓ Develop metrics to evaluate the usefulness of the tool (i.e. downloads)
 - ✓ Consider linkage with Complaints Task Group tools

FUTURE WORK

The task group provides advice for future work relating to the Backgrounder and Tool:

- ▣ Odour and health is an ongoing research question.
 - ✓ Regular updates of products to keep current (5 years)
 - ✓ Conduct an updated literature review
 - ✓ Develop an app for the tool
 - ✓ Explore applicability of the tool for research purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Accept the Health Task Group’s final report.
The Health Task Group recommends that the OMT accept their final report and deliverables for consideration as the Good Practice Guide is developed.

Recommendation 2: Disband the Health Task Group, after review of the GPG.

Since their workplan is complete, the Health Task Group recommends that the OMT disband the task group, after review of the task groups applicable sections within the GPG.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 3: Engage a graphic designer to review the tool.

The OMT should consider engaging the GPG graphic designer to review the tool for ease of use and align it with the rest of the GPG.

Recommendation 4: Engage champion to host the tool.

The OMT should consider having a champion to host the tool on their website.

QUESTIONS?

