

Regional Impact Assessment: St. Lawrence River



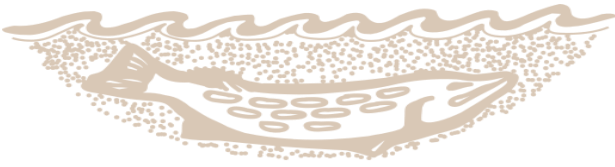
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Objectives

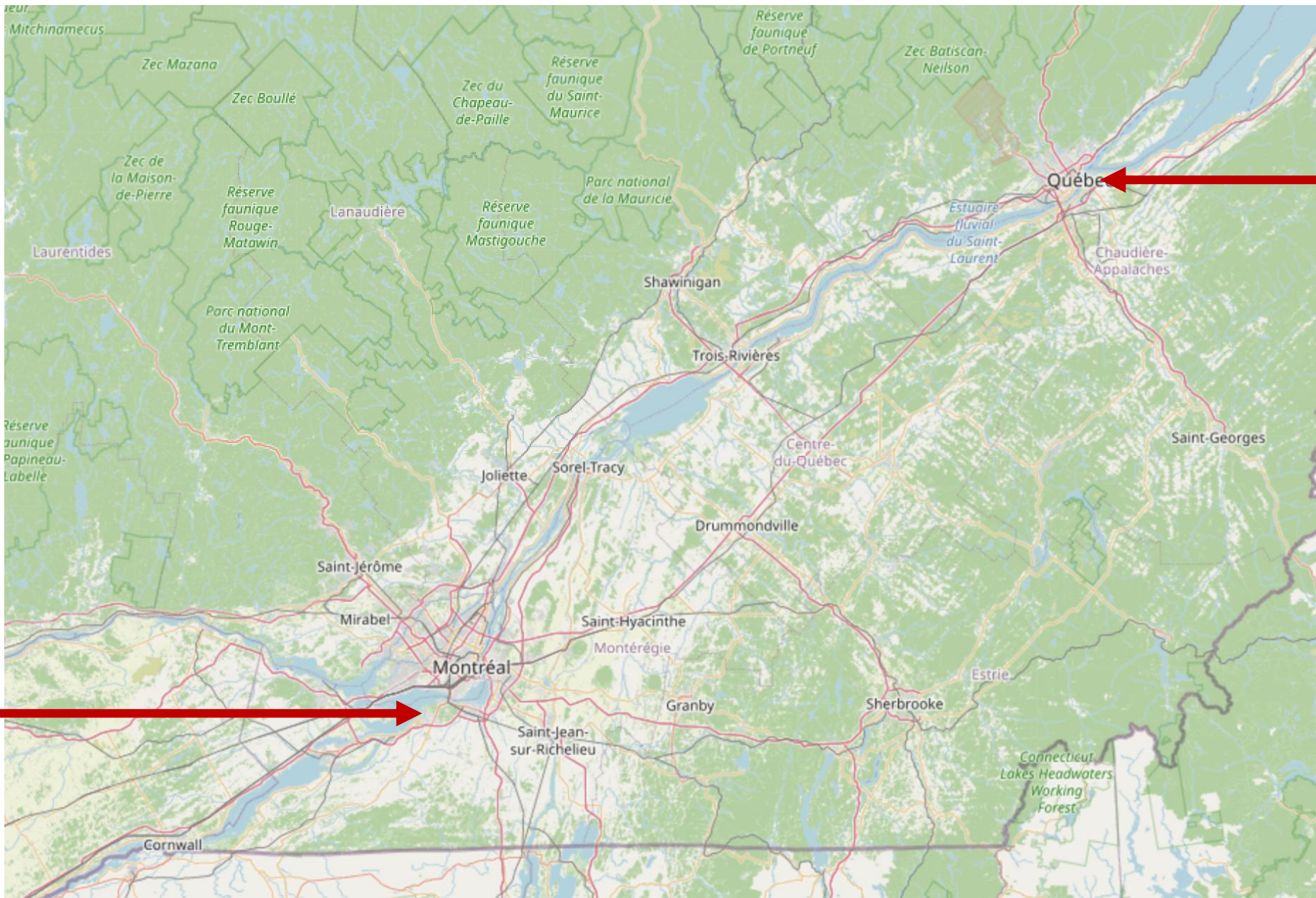
The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) journey to submitting a request for a regional assessment and development of the conduct phase

- Why do a regional impact assessment?
- Who should do a regional impact assessment?
- How should a regional impact assessment be conducted?



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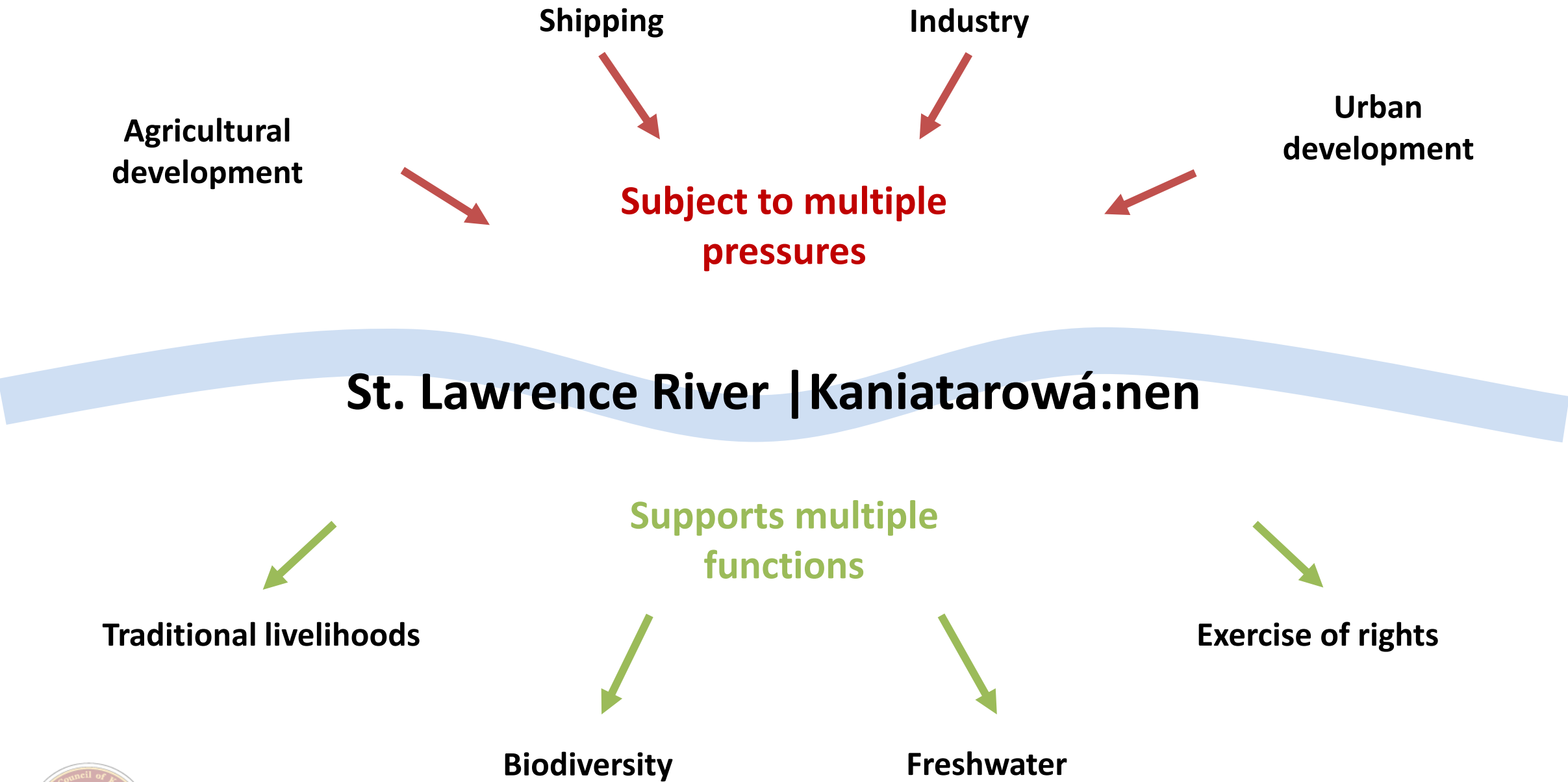
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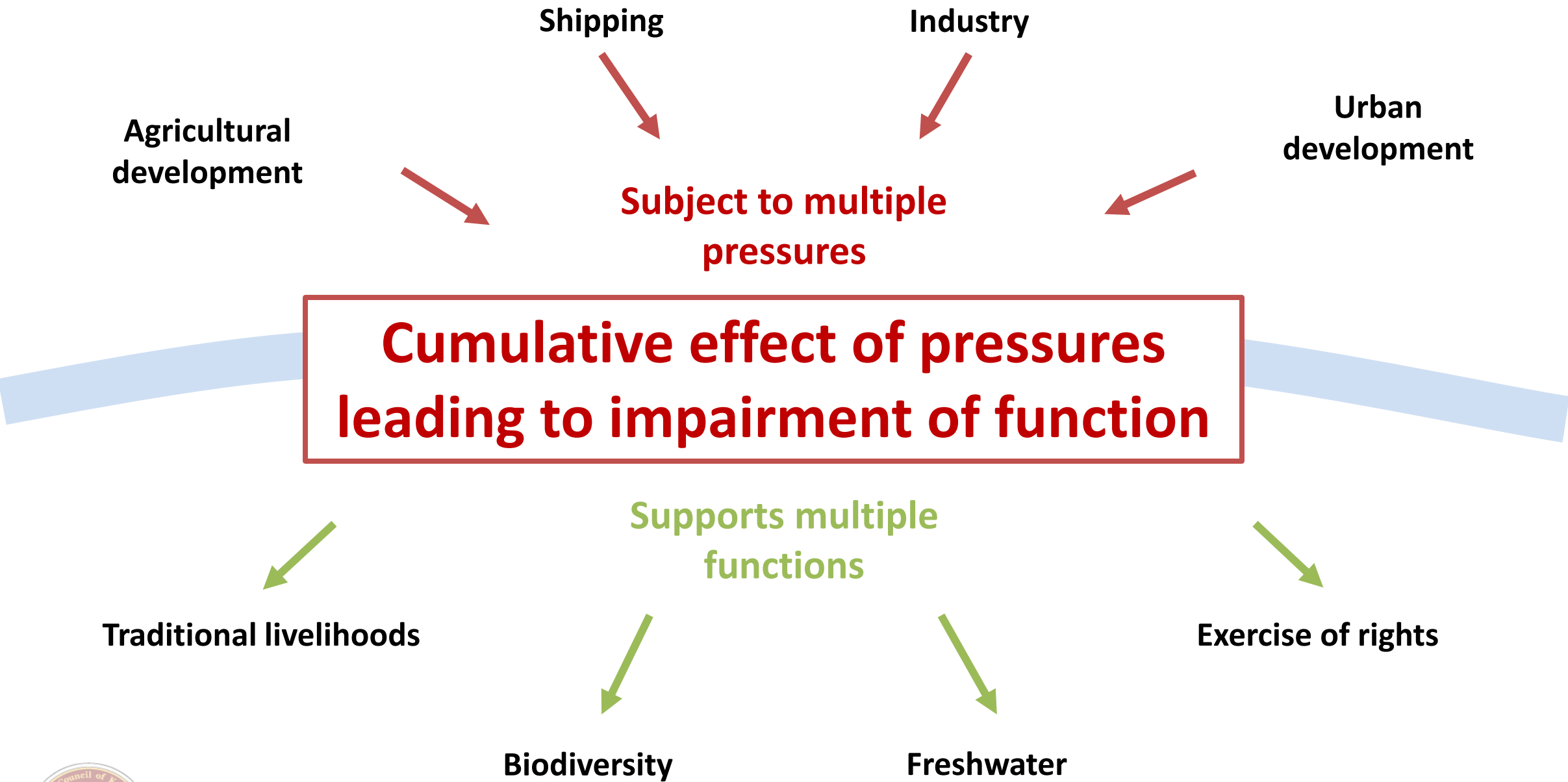
Map data from OpenStreetMap



St. Lawrence River | Kaniatarowá:nen







Failure to assess cumulative effects in project-based impact assessments

Project: Port expansion

Valued component: Fishing



Present

- Minimal fishing activity
- 1-2 fish species present
- Hardened shoreline



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Failure to assess cumulative effects in project-based impact assessments

Develop mitigation and compensation measures

Present



Future

- Minimal fishing activity
- 1-2 fish species present
- Hardened shoreline

- Maintain current fishing levels
- Habitat for 1-2 fish species
- Maintain area of shoreline



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Failure to assess cumulative effects in project-based impact assessments

How did we get to present day conditions and what is the impact?

Past



- Abundant fishing activity
- 5-6 fish species present
- Large coastal wetland

Present

- Minimal fishing activity
- 1-2 fish species present
- Hardened shoreline

Future

- Maintain current fishing levels
- Habitat for 1-2 fish species
- Maintain area of shoreline



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Failure to assess cumulative effects in project-based impact assessments

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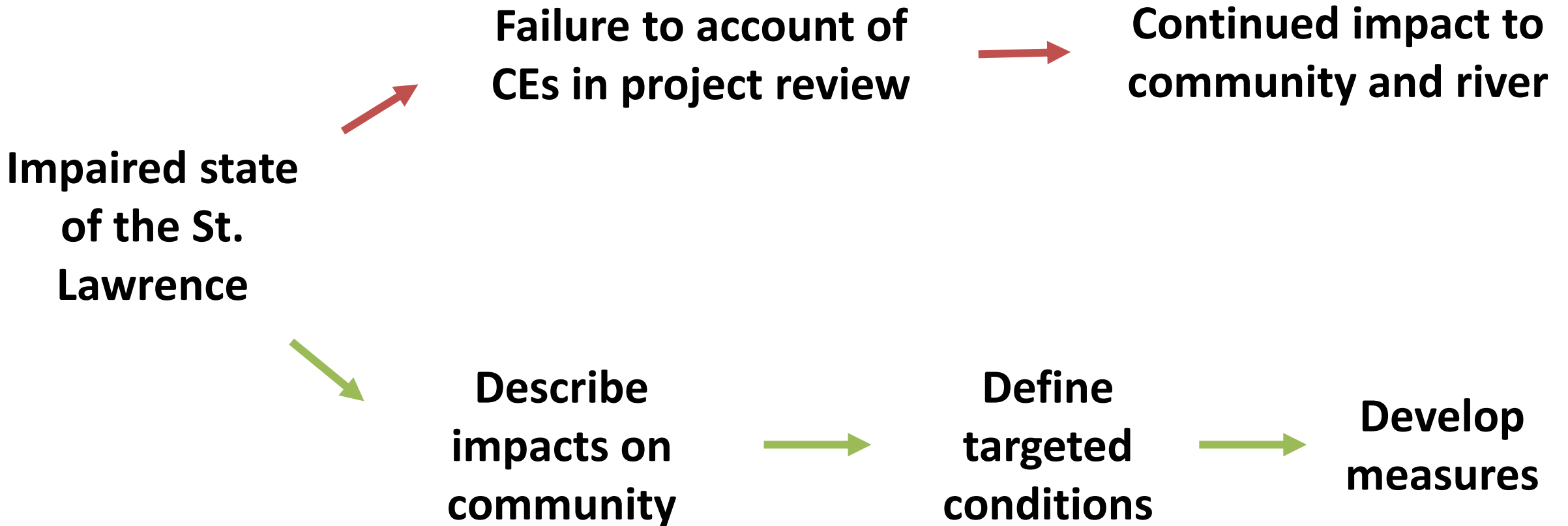
Difficult to assess in project-based impact assessments



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Why do a regional impact assessment?



Why do a regional impact assessment?

Current gaps

- Poor collective understanding of current impacts of activities on communities
- Low access to resources on cumulative effects analysis in the region
- No support for developing avoidance, mitigation, compensation and accommodation measures to address cumulative effects

Objectives

- Describe the regional context
- Describe current impacts of activities
- Understand cumulative effects in the region
- Develop targeted conditions and supporting measures



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Who should do a regional impact assessment?

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

- Significant impacts on community and ability to exercise rights
- Non project-based perspective



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Who should do a regional impact assessment?

**Mohawk Council
of Kahnawà:ke**

**Federal
government**

**Provincial
government**

- 
- Federal and provincial governments play a role in authorizing activities that impact the MCK and the environment
 - Develop shared understanding across all actors on cumulative effects and impacts
 - Reduce overlap of work and increase sharing of data



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The journey to a regional assessment of the St. Lawrence...

**MCK request
for a RIA**
July 29, 2020



**Minister
accepts request**
July 15, 2021



Who should do a regional impact assessment?

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

- Made request to Minister of the Environment in July 2020

Federal government

- Subsection 93(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*
- Minister can enter an agreement/arrangement to establish a joint committee to conduct the assessment

Provincial government

- Minister sent letter to Québec to enter an agreement in June 2022

**Unable to establish
common vision and
scope**

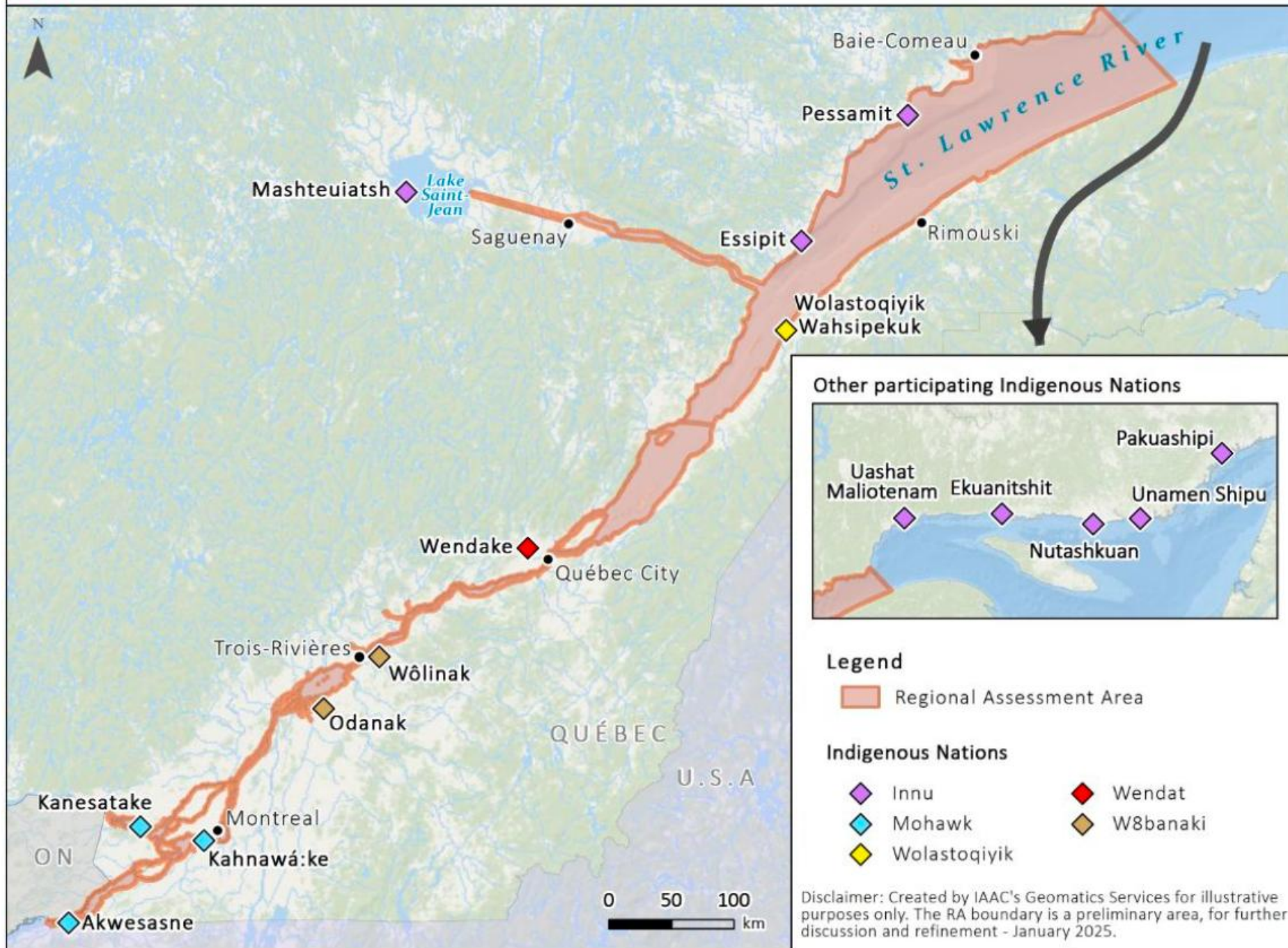


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Federal government



Disclaimer: Created by IAAC's Geomatics Services for illustrative purposes only. The RA boundary is a preliminary area, for further discussion and refinement - January 2025.



Who should do a regional impact assessment?

Regional Assessment Working Group

Co-leads:

- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

First Nation Partners:

- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA)
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK)
- Mohawk Council of Kanesatake
- Conseil tribal W8banaki (represents Odanak and Wôlinak)

- Conseil de la Nation Wendat
- Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh
- Première Nation des Innus Essipit
- Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit
- Première Nation Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk



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The journey to a regional assessment of the St. Lawrence...

**MCK request
for a RIA**
Jul 29, 2020

**Letter to QC on
collaboration**
Jun 9, 2022

**Minister
accepts request**
Jul 15, 2021

**Minister
authorizes RIA**
Dec 17, 2024



How should a regional impact assessment be conducted?

Objectives

- Describe the regional context
- Describe current impacts of activities
- Understand cumulative effects in the region
- Develop targeted conditions and supporting measures

Opportunities

- Indigenous first perspective
- Opportunity to define targeted future conditions
- Acknowledge current impacts

Challenges

- Large geographic area to cover
- Diverse range of perspectives and priorities
- Data management



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How should a regional impact assessment be conducted?

Subregions

- Split geographic area into four subregions organized by First Nations
- Reflect different priorities between First Nations

Sub-region 1

- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA)
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK)
- Mohawk Council of Kanesatake

Sub-region 2

- Conseil tribal W8banaki (represents Odanak and Wôlinak)

Sub-region 3

- Conseil de la Nation Wendat

Sub-region 4

- Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh
- Première Nation des Innus Essipit
- Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit
- Première Nation Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk



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How should a regional impact assessment be conducted?

Assessment Flowchart

- Allow each subregion to define priorities
- Identify shared priorities and data needs across subregions
- Establish trackable goals across subregions

For each subregion:

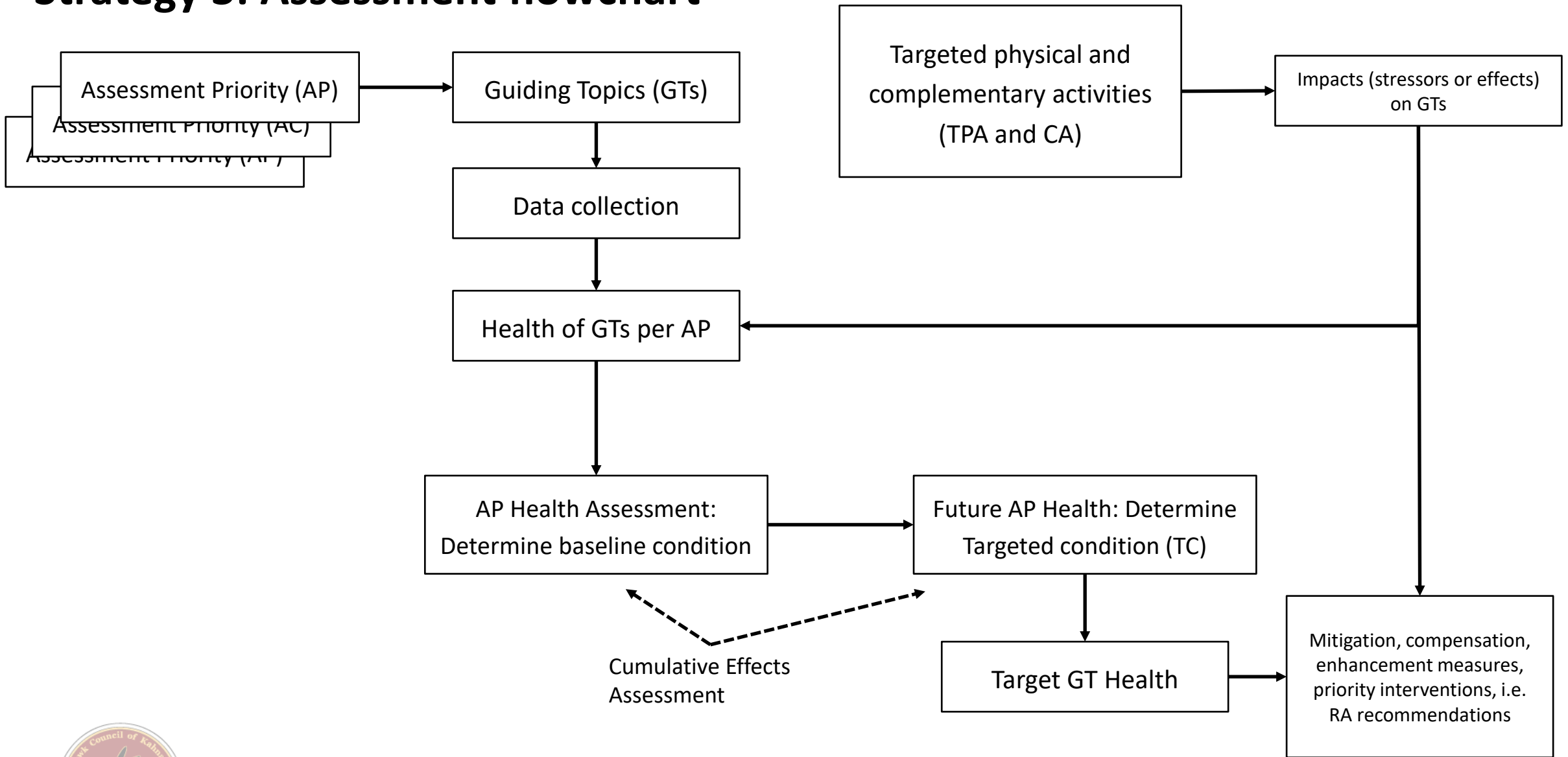
- Define assessment priorities
- Identify guiding topics
- Assess guiding topic health
- Determine baseline conditions of assessment priorities
- Determine targeted condition of assessment priorities



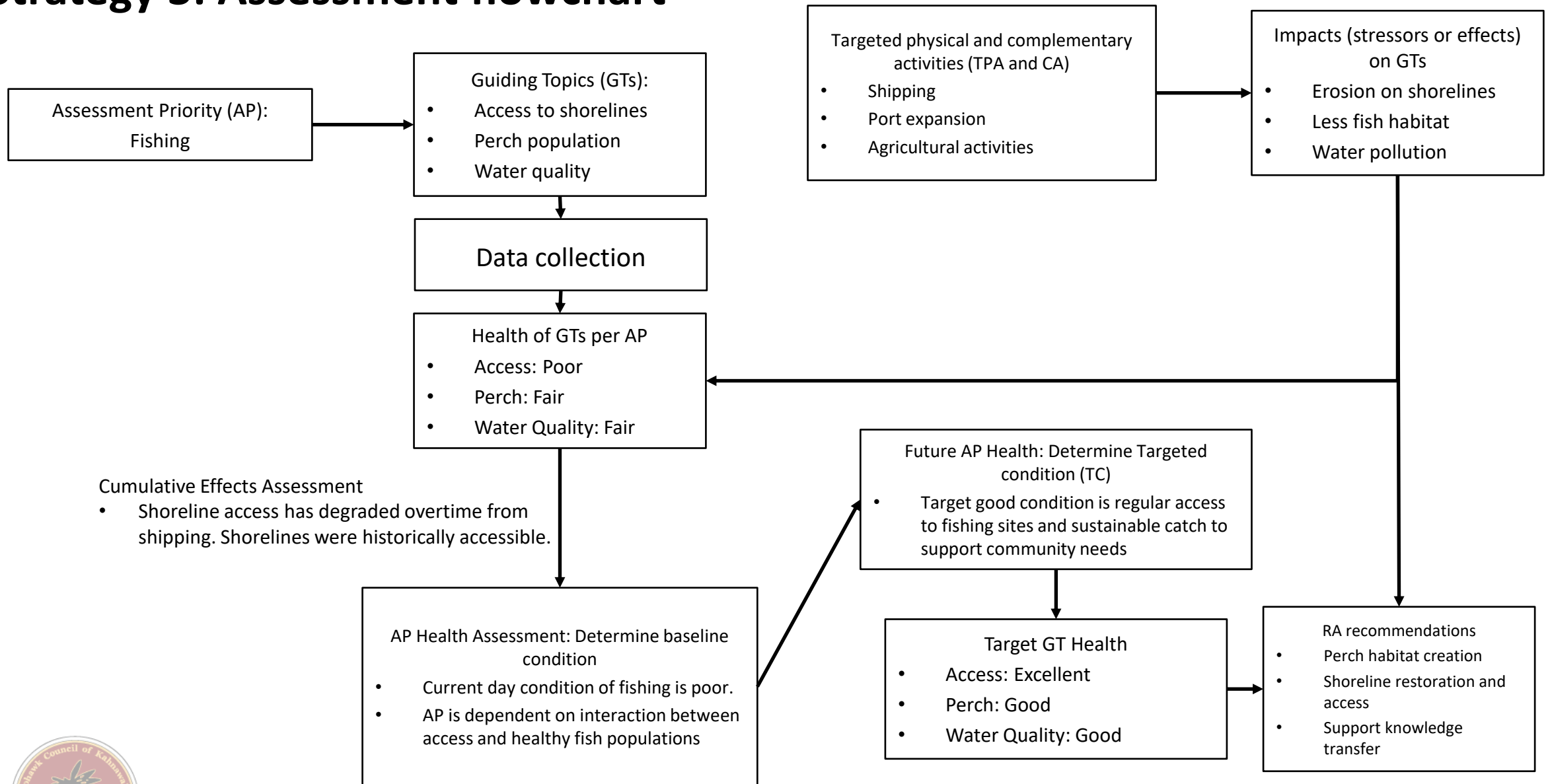
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Strategy 3: Assessment flowchart



Strategy 3: Assessment flowchart



The journey to a regional assessment of the St. Lawrence...





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Contact us



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