

## Air Quality Council Meeting: January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Notes from the meeting held on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the ACRD Downstairs Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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Present:	Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni) Dave Jarrett Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper) Earle Plain (MOE) Gary Swann Sarah Thomas (Chair)
Regrets:	Judy Carlson Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper) John McNabb (ACRD) Patty Edwards (MLA's Office) Tim Pley (Fire Department) Andrew McGifford (ACRD Environmental Services)

### 1. AQC Composition

#### New Members

City of Port Alberni Council Representative - Chris Alemany has been newly appointed to this role. We welcome Chris to the AQC.

John McNabb has been renewed for another year as the ACRD's representative on the AQC :)

Ministry of Health  
Jade Yehia – Regional Built Environment Consultant. Will join the AQC as a representative from health. It will be a significant benefit to have a health representative at this table.

### 2. 2015 Year in Review

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Fall Report	Fall report of activities was distributed and discussed.
2015 Feedback and Evaluation	A short evaluation form was distributed. AQC members are asked to please take a few minutes to write down their thoughts and ideas with regards to what's working and what might be done differently at the AQC so that we can learn for next year.

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### 3. 2016 Planning

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Project Priorities	Building off of the work of 2015, priorities going forward include expanding woodstove education, finalizing bylaw unification for a backyard burn ban for the region, updating the AQC web-
2016-2017 Chair Scope	

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Funding 2016	<p>directory, and formalizing the AQC organizational structure.          Anticipated from MOE – \$5000          ACRD - \$8000 applied for from Grant-in-Aid.          Woodstove exchange administration funds for undertaking public education and outreach components of the program - \$1,350.</p> <p>We are also looking for funds for a woodstove exchange research project to get a better sense of woodstove usage in the valley.</p>
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#### 4. Fall Air Advisory (Earle)

November air advisories	<p>Two air advisories were issued in November. One was likely tipped off by all of the slash burning, the other by land clearing at a property in Cherry Creek.</p>
Slash Burning	<p>The slash burning was all legal and yet the problem was anticipated. Open burning and smoke control regulation will hopefully be updated soon which could help with this. Discussion of City Council motion for AVICC regarding this issue.</p>
Cherry Creek	<p>The air advisory of late November was linked to a property in Cherry Creek. The property owner was approached regarding burning regulation.</p>
Advisory Protocol	<p>Progress has been made regarding air advisory protocol. When air advisories are issued they will now be posted on Echo Centre and AV Multiplex digital sign boards which will help get the information out to residents.</p>
Air Quality Infographic	<p>We have been working with the city to develop an air quality infographic to share with the community and increase awareness of residential sources of air emissions. Draft is available for input. Please take a look and send your thoughts by February 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>

#### 5. Backyard Burning and Woodstove Education

Woodstove Education	<p>2016 Woodstove Exchange Program to kick off February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.</p> <p>It was discussed that an event in May might be good to tie in with the one year remaining on the city woodstove sunset clause (May 2017) and get people stacking wood in advance for next winter.</p>
Backyard Burning	<p>Backyard burning ban effective April 2016. City will be working on bylaw revision to include this. AQC to support them in this and</p>

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	see where alternatives get developed that can be promoted at the same time.
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	Aiming for May to discuss possible backyard burn guidelines with the ACRD. Then tie it all together into a fall event in October with public education about alternatives, etc.
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**Next Meeting** – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, 2pm, ACRD Board Room.

We also discussed planning meetings for the next few months. Tentative dates are Thursday April 21 and Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know your availability for these dates.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.