



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Wood Smoke Reduction Program announced

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – Residents of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) continue to benefit from a provincial program that provides incentives to people replacing wood stoves with cleaner heating options.

The new savings, between the rebate and the discount offered by the participating retailers, equate to a savings ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, depending on what type of heating you are switching to. For people living on First Nation land, these savings are higher, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Propane and natural gas stoves are no longer eligible for rebates from the Wood Smoke Reduction Program. Although these appliances reduce particulate matter pollution relative to wood stoves, they burn fossil fuels and therefore produce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

Port Alberni is currently categorized as a “red zone” community due to continual exceedances of the national standards set for Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}). 2019 data shows that Port Alberni ranked third in the province for exceedances of PM_{2.5}. Wood stoves have been identified as a significant source of air pollution in the Alberni Valley, a region that sees high incident rates of child asthma among other diseases often associated with poor air quality.

A statement from the 2020 BC Lung State of the Air Report emphasizes the importance of, "aggressive action now to retire older high emission wood burning appliances and to prepare to implement bans on use of fireplaces and wood stoves that are not primary heat sources will help reduce this major source of air pollution when colder temperatures arrive in fall and winter."

All homeowners in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District can utilize the Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program. The program runs on a first-come, first-served basis until the rebates run out. For further information and how to qualify please visit our participating retailers, check out the link [Wood Smoke Reduction Program \(acrd.bc.ca\)](https://www.acrd.bc.ca/wood-smoke-reduction-program) or phone 250-720-2700.

This year's participating retailers for the 2023 Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program include: Bamfield Builders Supply Ltd., Dolan's Gas Fitting and Heating Ltd., Van Isle Chimney Service, Pioneer Fireplace, Tilley's Plumbing & Heating, and Beaufort Sheet Metal & Heating.

-30-

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