



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

3008- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Port Alberni, V9Y 2E3

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2020

### WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE 2020 PROGRAM – SMARTER BURNING AND CLEANER LIVING

The 2020 Woodstove Exchange Program is entering the home stretch with only a few more months to go. This annual program has been running for the past 10 years and is funded by a grant from the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the BC Lung Association.

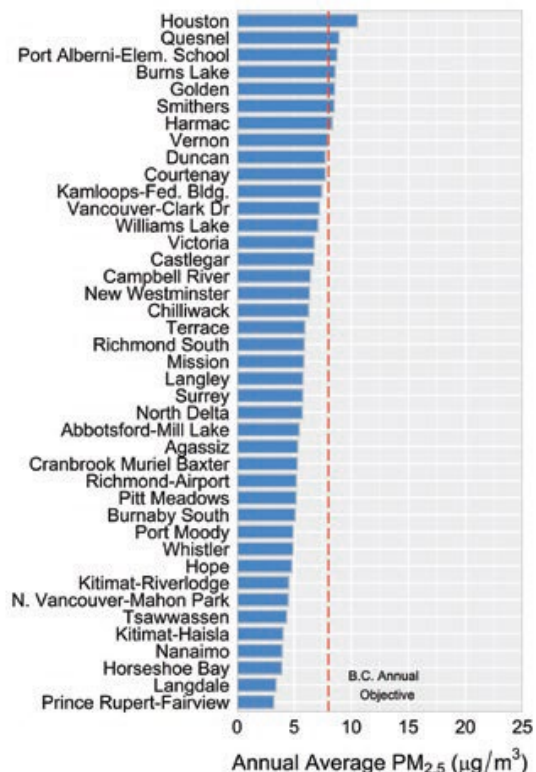
Port Alberni is currently categorized as a “red zone” community due to continual exceedances of the national standards set for Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). 2019 data shows that Port Alberni ranked third in the province for exceedances of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Woodstoves have been identified as a significant source of air pollution in the Alberni Valley, a region which 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 woodburning appliances and to prepare to implement bans on use of fireplaces and woodstoves that are not primary heat sources will help reduce this major source of air pollution when colder temperatures arrive in fall and winter along with likely additional waves of COVID-19 infections”.

Typically, every winter, from October to February, air pollution increases in the Alberni Valley. Smoke from woodstoves plays a major role in this phenomenon, as does weather inversion conditions that can trap pollutants in the air, sometimes for days on end.

The aim of the wood stove exchange program is to reduce wood smoke pollution. Even though non-emissions certified stoves have been illegal to sell in British Columbia since 1994, there are still many old, polluting stoves in use. Emissions certified stoves can produce 70 to 90% less smoke while burning about 1/3 less wood.

2019 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Levels in B.C.



The Wood Stove Exchange Program offers two options for households upgrading woodstoves.

1. The exchange of any wood stove manufactured **prior** to 2014 switching to an alternate heat source. The rebate amount for this option is \$800. (\$500 rebate issued by the ACRD plus a \$300 retailer discount).
2. The exchange of an uncertified wood stove (pre-1994) to a certified wood stove rebate option is \$400. (\$250 rebate issued by the ACRD plus a \$150 retailer discount).

This year's participating retailers for the 2020 Woodstove Exchange include: Bamfield Builders Supply Ltd., Dolans Gas Fitting and Heating Ltd., Pioneer Fireplace, The Place and Tilley's Plumbing & Heating.

All homeowners in the Alberni- Clayoquot Regional District can utilize the Woodstove Exchange. The program began Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 and will continue until rebates run out. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information and how to qualify please visit our participating retailers, check out the link [www.acrd.bc.ca/woodstove-exchange-program](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/woodstove-exchange-program) or phone 250)720-2700.

Help your health and your pocketbook. Acceptable air quality is everyone's right. Protecting air quality is everyone's responsibility.

For more information, contact:

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