



MEDIA BRIEFING PGAIR PROGRESS REPORT

September 01, 2010

The Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PG AIR) is pleased to report on matters discussed at its August 31, 2010 meeting.

1. Phase III Plan Development

The primary goal of the Phase III Plan will be to achieve the fine PM emission reduction targets adopted by PG AIR in January 2009, namely to meet the new provincial ambient PM_{2.5} objectives and to have a reduction on all significant emission sources. Sub-Committees have now been developed for purposes of research and development of the Phase III Plan. Further facilitated sessions are expected for September, 2010 and PGAIR will continue towards development of the Phase III Plan, which is scheduled to be finalized by November 30th, 2010.

2. Air Quality Health Index – Presentation from MOE

In response to questions arising from PGAIR members about the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) during the recent wildfire smoke episode, PGAIR received a presentation from the Ministry of Environment on the AQHI. This is one tool that is available to the public. This tool should be used in conjunction with Air Quality Advisories and the Air Quality Monitoring Station data. The individual Air Quality Monitoring Site data provides additional information on PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and other parameters. Improvements to the AQHI are currently being discussed at the Provincial and Federal levels. A link to the AQHI and Air Quality Monitoring Stations can be found on the main PGAIR website at www.pgairquality.com.

3. City of Prince George – MyPG Sustainability Plan

PGAIR is working with the City of Prince George in the current development of the MyPG Sustainability Plan air quality indicators. Indicators are being developed to monitor change to air quality over time and may include particulates, odour or other pollutants.

4. Open Burning and Smoke Control Regulation and Proposed Provincial Framework for the Development of Ambient Air Quality Objectives- PGAIR Response.

PGAIR members are currently reviewing both the provincial Open Burning and Smoke Control Regulation and Proposed Provincial Framework for the Development of Ambient Air Quality Objectives. The reports have been sent to all members of the PGAIR table and PGAIR will be coordinating a response to both of the intentions papers in late September.

For more information, please visit the PG AIR website at www.pgairquality.com.

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PGAIR Society is a group of volunteers representing a broad spectrum of the community; including the public, government, industry, Northern Health, UNBC, PACHA, commercial and transportation sectors. PGAIR is working towards continuous improvement of the air quality within the Prince George air shed, and coordinates various programs and communication initiatives in support of this effort. PGAIR also coordinates research and provides science-based recommendations reached by consensus to various stakeholders and decision-making bodies to help improve air quality.