



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 1, 2010

LAST BC WOOD STOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM BEGINS TODAY IN PRINCE GEORGE

The provincial wood stove exchange program is returning to Prince George for one last year. 2010 will mark the end of the three-year provincial wood stove exchange program, designed to encourage British Columbians to exchange older, smoky wood burning appliances for low emission appliances (including gas, pellet, and EPA-certified clean burning wood stoves or inserts) and to assist residents operate wood burning appliances efficiently and reduce wood smoke emissions containing fine particulate matter and other substances that impact local air quality and human health.

In Prince George, the program will be carried out by the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PG AIR) from **March 1 to December 31, 2010**. During the program, residents who replace their qualifying old wood burning appliance with a qualifying new gas, pellet or wood burning appliance will receive a \$150 industry discount (March and April only) from participating retailers – PLUS the first 100 participants from qualifying areas will receive a voucher for a \$250 provincial rebate from PG AIR. Program details can be found on the PG AIR website (www.pgairquality.com). Residents who replace their old wood burning appliance may be eligible for additional rebates or incentives under the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit Home Program (these rebates and incentives are not part of the wood stove exchange program and must be applied for separately).

NEW to this year's wood stove exchange program in Prince George:

- **Permit Fee Waiver** – From March 1 to April 30, the City of Prince George will waive the woodburning appliance permit fee for program participants. (Permits are still required by participants; participants must bring in their voucher to receive the permit fee waiver.)
- **Bonus \$250 Rebate Draws** – From March 1 to April 30, properly-completed rebate vouchers received by PG AIR will be entered into monthly draws for bonus \$250 rebates, so early birds are eligible to receive a total rebate of \$500 from PG AIR.

RETURNING to this year's wood stove exchange program in Prince George:

- **FREE "Burn it Smart" workshops** – Two workshops will be held, one in the spring (date TBA) and one in the fall (date TBA). Both novices and seasoned veterans can learn how to have cleaner, safer, more efficient fires that reduce wood smoke emissions.
- **Commit to Clean Burning** – Wood burning appliance owners can pledge (on vouchers, the PG AIR website, or at workshops) to clean burning. "Good neighbours" will be celebrated on the PG AIR website.
- **Nominate Your Neighbour** – People living next to a smoky neighbour can contact PG AIR to request that an information package, containing program details and proper wood burning and storage tips, be sent to their neighbour.

The program is generously sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, the BC Lung Association, Environment Canada, the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association of Western Canada, the Wood Energy Technicians of British Columbia (WET BC), the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

For more information, please contact:

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