

News Release

For immediate release

February 16, 2009

Woodstove Exchange Program in full swing

Program to replace inefficient woodstoves to run until April 30,2009

QUESNEL, B.C. – If you were ever looking for the right time to replace the smoke-belching wood stove you're using right now, this is it.

Cariboo residents are being offered a cash incentive to upgrade their old wood stoves as part of the Cariboo Wood Stove Exchange Program, which runs from March 1st until April 30,2009. Residents who replace older inefficient models with more efficient and clean-burning appliances can receive a number of rebates and incentives. The program also applies to residents installing high-efficiency gas stoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts.

New certified wood stoves burn one-third less wood and can reduce smoke and particulate matter entering the atmosphere by as much as 90 per cent.

The first 50 stoves to be turned in are eligible for a \$300 cash reward. There is also a \$250 provincial rebate plus in-store discounts of \$150 at participating retailers, meaning there's as much as \$700 available. And that's just the start.

The program is also designed to raise public awareness about the importance of smoke-free burning. There will be a free "Burn it Smart" workshop on Tuesday Feb. 24 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at Quesnel City Hall. By attending you could win a door prize of \$750 towards a new clean burning appliance at a participating retailer (you must have an old wood stove as a trade-in). Participants will learn how to burn cleaner, more efficient fires and see the difference between conventional air-tight stoves and high-efficiency wood stoves. There will also be a number of experts on hand to answer questions.

For more information about the Wood Stove Exchange Program, call the Exchange Hotline at 1-877-992-5833.

The Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder, community-driven initiative that has developed an improvement plan for air quality in Quesnel.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Dora McMillan, Chair
Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable
Phone: (250) 992-3770
Web: www.quesnelairshed.org