



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2003.

THE CARIBOO WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Quesnel , Williams Lake, & 100 Mile House - Cariboo residents are being offered a cash incentive to upgrade their old wood stoves. The Cariboo Wood Stove Exchange Program is providing rebates to homeowners who replace uncertified wood stoves with more efficient and approved clean-burning appliances. New certified wood stoves burn 1/3 less wood and reduce smoke and particulates entering the atmosphere by up to 90%.

The program also applies to residents installing high-efficiency gas stoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts. Local hearth retailers will be offering trade-in allowances of up to \$500 on the new systems between April 26 and June 7, 2003.

Since the campaign aims to raise public awareness about the importance of smoke-free burning, three information workshops are being offered to help people gain more heat and less smoke from their wood burning systems:

Tue., April 29	100 Mile –Multi purpose room, South Cariboo Health Centre, 555 Cedar Ave. Use rear entrance.	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Wed., April 30	Williams Lake- The Resource Building, 640 Borland Street. 1 st Floor.	7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
Thurs., May 1st	Quesnel Fire Hall- West Quesnel Fire Hall, 345 Andersen Drive.	7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Participants will learn how to burn cleaner, more efficient fires. They will see the difference between conventional air-tight stoves and high-efficiency wood stoves and have the opportunity to question a number of experts.

This project reflects a real community commitment and was initiated by the Quesnel and Williams Lake Air Quality Roundtable Committees. Partners include the fire service, health/air quality experts, retailers, wood stove manufacturers, the BC Lung Association, WHPBAC and WET BC. It is a great opportunity to clean up the winter air in our neighborhoods and make wood heat safer in our community.

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