



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - Attention Editor

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY CANCELLED FOR PRINCE GEORGE

April 16th, 2010 – Prince George. The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Northern Health Authority have cancelled the Air Quality Advisory for Prince George.

The City of Prince George has updated the City's Clean Air Bylaw which now prohibits all open burning, including backyard burning and land clearing burning. This advisory also prohibits recreational fires and street sweeping activities and bans the use of wood-burning appliances, except for Sole Wood Burning Heat Users. Industry is asked to reduce emissions wherever possible during the air quality advisory.

Tips to reduce your personal health risk.

While health effects are often more apparent during air quality advisories, the majority of adverse health effects are due to long term exposure of fine particulates at levels well below those that trigger air quality advisories. Avoiding unhealthy exposure where possible and maintaining a healthy lifestyle by eating healthy and exercising regularly can prevent health effects resulting from both, long and short-term exposure of air pollution.

Additional Information:

- The provincial air quality objective for fine particles, PM₁₀, is 50 micrograms per cubic metre, averaged over 24 hours. The 24 hour PM₁₀ rolling average was 49 µg/m³ at the Plaza 400 downtown, 47 µg/m³ at BCR and 19 µg/m³ at College Heights at 3pm.
- The provincial air quality objective for fine particles, PM_{2.5}, is 25 micrograms per cubic metre, averaged over 24 hours. The 24 hour PM_{2.5} rolling average was 9 µg/m³ at the Plaza 400 downtown site and 6 µg/m³ at College Heights.
- Based on the air quality data, the high levels are mainly due to road dust, as well as emissions from industry and transportation sources such as automobiles, trucks and rail traffic.
- For information on particulate matter levels, please call the 24 hour Ministry of Environment Air Quality Index Line at (250) 565-6457 or check the Ministry's website at www.bcairquality.ca.
- For information on the City's Clean Air Bylaw, please contact City Hall at (250) 561-7600 or visit the City's website at www.city.pg.bc.ca

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