



cleanairplan.ca

*Clean air solutions
we can all work with!*

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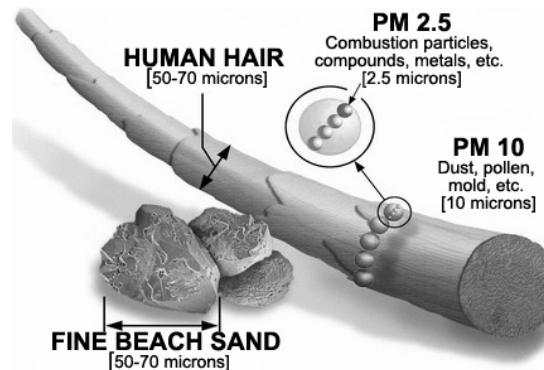
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Air: it's the most vital element for human life... and one we simply can't take for granted anymore.

We all know that human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels, are changing the composition of gases that make up the air we breathe and contributing to global warming. Governments everywhere grapple with the environmental and economic impacts of this.

But Canadians are also becoming aware of how everyday activities relate to air—right here and now, in our own homes and neighbourhoods.

Driving on paved, unswept roads, operating wood stoves, burning waste produced by households, agriculture and industrial operations: all of these produce microscopic dust particles.



When inhaled in sufficient quantity, this **particulate matter** poses serious threats to human health: increased risk of heart attack, pneumonia and lung cancer,

aggravation of existing diseases of the lung, and decreased survival rates.

Credible research has placed the **Bulkley Valley-Lakes District (BVLD)** among the worst regions in B.C. for air pollution and lung-related hospital visits. But in true Valley spirit, citizens have come up with an equally credible response:

The BVLD Clean Air Plan (aka Airshed Management Plan)

What is an *airshed* and why does it need to be managed?

An **airshed** is a geographic area where shared topographical and meteorological characteristics, and emissions, produce regionally uniform air quality conditions.

The BVLD airshed is very prone to **thermal inversions**, where cold air becomes trapped under a blanket of warm air. At these times, and on windless days, multiple emissions sources push airborne particulate matter to dangerous levels. Smog often exceeds that of the Lower Mainland, compromising visibility and health.

For the nearly 8% of people with asthma, such air quality episodes pose immediate, even life-threatening concerns. For all of us, they mean higher risks of long term cardio-respiratory complications, higher healthcare costs, lower quality of life, compromised real estate values and strained community relationships.

Our made-at-home solution: A team, and a plan

Well-founded concerns about local air quality were answered in 1999 by B.C.'s environment ministry, which unveiled an airshed management plan for the BVLD. But our social and industrial landscape has since changed. We know more about emissions sources, and recognize the importance of broad-based community input.

That's why a government-funded coalition of skilled people from the public, the health professions, government and industry came together to build upon that important first effort. Mirroring successful airshed planning initiatives elsewhere, they embarked on a comprehensive, consensus-based process to update and revise the plan.

The result is the *2004-2009 BVLD Community Action Plan for Clean Air* (viewable online at www.cleanairplan.ca or in print in your local municipal office and community library).

The newly revised plan features:

- consideration of *all* significant sources of emissions in our region
- creative, workable solutions for cleaner air
- realistic goals and timelines

The planning team itself has also become formalized as an accountable, transparent organization:

The BVLD Airshed Management Society.

Armed with a constitution ratified in June 2005 and non-profit society status, we will continue:

- co-ordinating activities, programs, general and targeted education to promote cleaner air, such as the Wood Stove Exchange Program and the Custom Venting Index Forecasting Service
- lobbying at all levels for regulations and policy which promote clean air
- providing a forum for constructive dialogue about air quality between all stakeholders
- reviewing and revising the Clean Air Plan annually to reflect new research and changing circumstances.

The BVLD Airshed Management Society: Recognized experts in building and implementing clean air solutions.

We believe in meeting *all* players where they're at now. We roll up our sleeves and put our heads together for **our common goal: air quality solutions we can *all* work with.**

Our members' diverse expertise helps us develop practical clean air strategies for everyone: from our homes and farms to the multinational corporations operating in our communities. We also source the brightest ideas from airshed planning across Canada.

Our members take pride in our core principles: inclusiveness, practicality,

transparency, accountability, mutual respect, receptiveness, innovation. **Yes, we're pro-planet — we're also pro-profit and pro-people.**

Join us! We are only as strong as our working relationships and members' skills. We'd love to have you on board! Here are just some of the ways people contribute: as board members ♦ communications planning/training ♦ delivering educational presentations ♦ desktop publishing and graphic design ♦ event organizing ♦ facilitation of meetings ♦ fundraising ♦ monitoring media coverage ♦ office services ♦ photography ♦ public speaking ♦ research (i.e. public opinion, alternatives to pollution) ♦ record-keeping ♦ technical consulting ♦ volunteer co-ordination and training ♦ website maintenance ♦ writing, proofreading ♦ stay informed of factors affecting air quality by reading our newsletters ♦ sharing your stories of activities that affect air quality – for better or for worse ♦ **you can also support our work through tax-deductible donations and in-kind contributions.**

What's in it for you?

- FUN: connect with a multi-disciplinary group of positive, forward-thinking people
- Develop and use your skills in creative thinking, problem-solving, negotiating
- Make community contacts, gain work references, build your resume, explore internship possibilities
- Support a cause that *everyone* can relate to: CLEAN AIR!