

Wood Stove Exchange Program Final Report
Prepared for the Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society
By Sue Brookes
Oct. 7, 2015

Background:

The communities that fall within our airshed were granted the following for 2014 and 2015.

We want to thank both the BC Lung Association and the Ministry of the Environment.

Results:

We have used and reserved the following funds for exchanges in progress and show what money remains.

	2014/2015 Grant	Used	Reserved	Sub. Total	Remaining
Coordinator	\$2,300.00	\$1,586.27	\$713.73	\$2,300.00	\$0.00
Printing/Ads	\$400.00	\$347.13	\$0.00	\$347.13	\$52.87
Rebates	\$7,750.00	\$4,250.00	\$1,750.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,750.00
	\$10,450.00	\$6,183.40	\$2,463.73	\$8,647.13	\$1,802.87

The following is a breakout showing the exchange numbers in the years the program has run by this society. Please note previous year's exchanges in Fort Babine and Tachet were likely counted as Burns Lake. Na indicates these areas are outside of our airshed and we did not apply nor target these communities in 2014/2015.

Community Exchange Numbers

	2006/2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012/13	2014/2015	TOTAL
Burns Lake	33	23	13	8	8	14	6	105
Fort Babine							5	5
Fort St James			4	2			na	6
Fraser Lake			6	3	1		na	10
Granisle	3	8	8		2	1	na	22
Hazeltons	21	28	14	11	11	8	1	94
Houston	34	21	23	16	13	4	0	111
Kitimat				3	2	1	na	6
Smithers	58	34	33	15	15	6	8	169
Stewart				1	1		1	3
Tachet							1	1
Telkwa	15	18	17	9	5	7	1	72
Terrace	23	11	10	21	7	2	na	74
Vanderhoof			6	4			na	10
TOTAL	187	143	134	93	65	43	23	688

- information on new units purchased for 2014/15 can be provided upon request.

We chose to run this program because an effective air quality-monitoring network exists in the Bulkley Valley. Our society tracks trends and has identified wood stove smoke as one of the leading causes of particulate matter levels.

We do think this program has improved air quality in our region. Of 13,621 homes in the plan area in 2012, approximately 5,400 were estimated to be heating with wood based on a telephone survey conducted in 2003. It is estimated that of these 5,400, there are approximately 3,500 conventional technology (i.e. non-EPA emission certified) wood burning appliances (65%) and 1,300 (24%) high efficiency (EPA emission certified) appliances. Although the current numbers of appliances are not known, the number of conventional woodstoves has been reduced by the exchange of over 688 units through the Woodstove Exchange Program since 2006.

We also get first hand accounts that community awareness around the health effects of air quality is increasing and people realize that wood stove burning is a significant contributor. In the last two years our society has undertaken outreach to rural and First Nation communities concerning wood smoke. Our contact list is growing and people are becoming increasingly aware of AQ because of this outreach and because they and their children and pets are suffering.

Bylaws:

With the exception of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako there are local bylaws governing the use of wood stoves. There would be support for implementing new or revising local air quality bylaws. The Regional District has had major problems with AQ due to outdoor boilers to the point where the Northern Health Authority has had to interfere. The District recognizes the need to adopt strategy in zoned urban areas. Also the problem of poor AQ is not going away. All municipalities are moving to track PM levels as part of their vitality or quality life indexes and recognize the need for bylaws and complaint or enforcement processes that are measurable. The community of Smithers recently failed the CAAQS objective for PM_{2.5} 24 h for the three year period 2011-2013. This was identified as requiring action by the CCEM AirZone report and followed up with a letter to the Municipality from the BC Clean Air Section from the Ministry of Environment.

Future Consideration:

We need to address the use of outdoor boilers and their use in the airshed. We badly need a set of guidelines or bylaws that indicate set backs, chimney heights, wood moisture content and so on. Additional financial incentive to swap out these stoves would be great. Also knowing which models are coming into the market and who is getting license to sell these things would help us work cooperatively and put pressure on dealers.

In our more rural areas there are no recyclers. We have accepted pictures stoves where they've dismantled flue collars and doors themselves. The Town of Smithers has been most helpful accepting woodstoves for recycling.

Education:

We produced one education piece this year for dealers and a trade show (attached). We also used up what Burn it Right materials we had from years gone by, VHS tapes to borrow, DVD's, bookmarks, Frisbees, colouring books and so on.

We would recommend either BC Lung or MOE finance the reproduction or production of First Nation or language specific materials. We need to flood the community with this stuff.

We figured we reached 88 members and another 80 contacts with links to news organizations, First Nation Bands and community associations. We also had 2 on air advertising campaigns that must have reached thousands. We had one paid print ad in one issue of Northword which has a distribution of 10 000 copies and advertising regularly in print and on line in local classifieds – the Bulkey Browser has how much distribution? Also a two-day appearance at the Smithers Chamber of Commerce Trade show gave us an opportunity to outreach to at least another 1000 attendees. I would have to get more info. on what these last two attendance and distribution numbers are like.

Recommendations for future education activities would be the development of school education or community literacy kits. Workshops, transparent monitoring and the publishing and distribution of community report cards – more detailed and less literate than those put out by the BC Lung Association annually.

Community financial resources:

We had one dealer and radio sales rep come up with a radio campaign that included lots of airtime on the dealer, we only contributed \$100 toward this 2-week campaign. We had the same dealer sponsor a spot for us at the Smithers Chamber of Commerce Trade Show plus they promoted the program when they could in store. We also have another dealer in Burns Lake that is a volunteer Director and his tenacious installations and education to residents in that region are of huge value to the community. He goes out of his way to help residents with new purchase and exchanges.

A full time coordinator is required for this program. Along with the program's coordination and education we need new surveys to find out how many wood stoves remain in the region and what kind are they. Estimates can then be calculated on cubits of wood burned annually and emission levels. Additionally hot spots have been identified in the past – going door to door in these areas will help target education where its needed.

Process:

We had no voucher but a one-page form requiring 3 signatures, easily reproduced by anyone. This is attached. We didn't solicit the involvement of retailers, only dealers. We are not sure retailers offer residents the same wood stove expertise as dealers nor do they do installations. Also I'm sure their volumes are much more – in the past Canadian Tire has been the biggest source for new EPA stoves and so likely the rebates would have gone quick if we had targeted Cdn Tire. Next Time we could try to

work with their marketing team and/or Head Office to promote and add value to the program. We should also include Rona up here but this coordination should happen at a provincial level perhaps conducted by the BC Lung Association. Our 30 rebates were available to anyone but we wanted people in poverty or on the margins to benefit.

We recommend you speak with our dealers at the Comfort Zone or North Central Heating for more information. Also our Directors who also sit on council include the following people – please feel free to contact them. Greg Brown is not currently a Director but sits on council and is a former coordinator of the program.

Brad Layton	Telkwa
John Siebenga	Houston
Robert Alan Newell (Rob)	RDBN
Susan Schienbein	Burns Lake
Greg Brown	Smithers

Thank-you,
Sue Brookes 250 877-8739, notonsea@hotmail.com or coordinator@cleanairplan.ca
BVLD AMS www.cleanairplan.ca (our website is on the mend.)