

March 2, 2015

Popular wood stove exchange program returns to help finance upgrades

Back by popular demand for a fifth season, Campbell River's wood stove exchange program will help residents replace older wood stoves with wood, pellet or gas heating appliances certified to national standards. Beginning Mar. 1, the City will offer more than 30 \$250 rebates on a first-come, first-served basis until Apr. 30.

"We are pleased to be able to offer wood stove exchange rebates again this year. With the burning season winding down, this is a good time to consider switching out uncertified wood stoves with a high-efficiency cleaner-burning wood, pellet or gas heating appliance," says Mayor Andy Adams. *"Along with the City rebate, savings offered by participating retailers and suppliers make upgrading a wood stove a cost-effective and an environmentally-sound decision."*

Since this program began in 2009, 150 wood stoves have been exchanged.

"Fine particulate air pollution, including what's generated by older wood stoves, is the primary air quality concern in less-populated areas of BC. Reducing wood smoke pollution helps us all breathe a little easier," adds Councillor Marlene Wright, who holds the environment portfolio for Council.

The BC Lung Association and the provincial health officer note that fine particulates are easily inhaled, and their miniscule size can penetrate deep in to the airway and lungs. This and their highly toxic nature can contribute to chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

"While Campbell River's levels of fine particulate air pollution are generally very low, air quality measurements in some low-lying areas can exceed recommended provincial air quality guidelines," says acting City manager Ron Neufeld. *"Consistently high readings of elevated fine particulates over a longer period of time are important to address and are of particular concern if these levels are combined with the poor practice of burning garbage or wood that has been in salt water."*

The exchange program is made possible through a \$10,000 grant from the BC Lung Association with support from the Province of BC and the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada. Participating local retailers include Quality Stoves and Fireplaces Ltd, Just Wood Stoves and Guardian Services Gunsmoke. The Province has also supplied a number of moisture metres and other tools to help residents *Burn it Smart*, stay tuned for future details.

Information on the wood stove exchange program and wood heating is available on the City website (www.campbellriver.ca).

To participate in the wood stove exchange program, please contact Brian McLoughlin at the City of Campbell River at 250-286-5727 or by email at brian.mcloughlin@campbellriver.ca.

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