

February 25, 2016

Wood stove exchange program returns, more important than ever!

Back by popular demand for a sixth season, Campbell River's wood stove exchange program will offer 28 \$250 rebates on a first-come, first-served basis from March 1 until April 30.

This program includes the City rebates as well as savings offered by participating retailers to help Campbell River residents switch out uncertified wood stoves with a high-efficiency cleaner-burning wood, pellet or gas heating appliance certified to national standards.

"Since this program began in 2009, 178 wood stoves have been exchanged, and we are pleased to be able to offer wood stove exchange rebates again this year because upgrading a wood stove is an environmentally-sound decision that also enhances public health," says Mayor Andy Adams. *"While winter air quality is generally considered good in Campbell River, fine particulate air pollution in woodsmoke can affect the community air shed right where people live and play."*

"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. *"Consistently high readings of elevated fine particulates that occur over a longer period of time are important to address. A particular concern occurs if these levels are combined with the poor practice of burning garbage or wood that has been in salt water."*

Air quality measurements from the monitoring station on Dogwood Street and other stations around the province are analyzed and reported out on in the annual BC Lung Association's State of the Air Report. Campbell River was one of nine communities in BC that exceeded the fine particulate annual objective in 2014. Fine particulate air pollution is also evaluated on a 24-hour basis. Over the winter of 2014-15 (the most recent data available), the provincial meteorologist determined that there were 12 days when fine particulate levels exceeded the daily objective.

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

The exchange program is made possible through an \$8,900 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.

To participate in the wood stove exchange program, please contact Terri Martin at the City of Campbell River at 250-286-5711 or by email at terri.martin@campbellriver.ca. Information on the wood stove exchange program and wood heating is available on the City website (www.campbellriver.ca). Current air quality readings can be found at www.bcairquality.ca.

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