

September 17, 2009

Clean Air Bylaw to Ensure New Wood Stoves Meet Standards

At its September 15 meeting, City Council adopted amendments to the Clean Air Bylaw that requires new wood stove installations in Campbell River to be certified to the Canadian Standards Association or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

“Since 1992, the City has led many initiatives to reduce fine particulate air pollution,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *“In recent years, the ban of backyard yard waste burning through the Clean Air Bylaw has been a significant step towards improving local air quality. The City’s Environmental Advisory Commission recommended the regulation of solid fuel burning appliance standards as the next logical step.”*

“Smoke from wood stoves remains a significant issue in many areas,” says Councillor Roy Grant, the Council liaison to the Environmental Advisory Commission. *“Fine particulates, such as those found in wood smoke, were cited in a recent report by the Provincial Health Officer as the worst kind of air pollution in BC, and exposure to high levels of particulates can play a role in many kinds of respiratory diseases. The BC Lung Association confirms new technology stoves emit 70 per cent less pollution on average, and this is the standard we will uphold for new woodstove installations in Campbell River.”*

“New wood stoves are also more efficient than older solid fuel burning appliances, so they use less wood to provide more heat, and that’s a smarter, greener use of our resources,” the Mayor adds.

The adoption of these amendments to the Clean Air Bylaw is timely, as the City recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Ministry of Environment for the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program (PWEF). The City will work with the Lung Association of BC to administer the initiative that provides financial incentives for community members to upgrade wood stoves.

“We are excited to announce that early in 2010 we will offer \$250 rebates to the first 75 residents who voluntarily replace older, smoky and less-efficient wood stoves with new low-emission appliances,” says Councillor Grant.

Burn It Smart education, providing tips and information to the public, is a mandatory component of the initiative. In collaboration with the Provincial Government and PWEF project partners, workshops will be held in the City over the winter months leading up to the woodstove exchange. This will be a great opportunity for residents to learn about the program, find out how the woodstove exchange works as well as other air quality initiatives and grants that may be available. As further details become available, the City will continue to notify the media and post information on the Internet at www.campbellriver.ca.

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