

February 21, 2013

Popular Wood Stove Exchange program returns to help finance upgrades

Back by popular demand for a fourth season, Campbell River's provincial 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 36 \$250 rebates on a first-come, first-served basis until Apr. 30.

"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 Councillor Larry Samson. *"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, 114 wood stoves have been exchanged. With newer cleaner-burning appliances in place, a total of 8,240 kg of fine particulate air pollution is no longer in the airshed each burning season. Conventional non-certified wood stoves have an average emission rate of 88.8 kg per burning season. With upgrades to gas (almost no fine particulate emissions) and certified pellet and cleaner-burning wood stoves (reduced fine particulate emissions), this program has removed the equivalent pollution of more than 90 old smoky woodstoves.

"Reducing wood smoke pollution helps us all breathe a little easier where people live and play," Councillor Samson adds.

Fine particulate air pollution (including what's generated by older wood stoves) is the primary air quality concern in less-populated areas of BC. The BC Lung Association and the Provincial Health Officer note that the miniscule size of fine particulates makes them easily inhaled and allows them to penetrate deep in the airway and lungs. This and their highly toxic nature contribute to chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The City conducted wood smoke air quality surveys in 2010 and 2011 using a mobile device in various community locations. A summary of the results will be available for the public in an upcoming report as part of this year's program.

"While we are pleased to see that levels of fine particulate matter are generally very low, the preliminary results of the air quality surveys also confirm that there are a number of low-lying areas within the City that are 'hot spots' for wood smoke pollution," says Ron Neufeld, the City's general manager of operations.

Master Burner sessions and other programs will take place throughout the Wood Stove Exchange program. Program details will be available soon and will be posted on the City's website and Facebook page and shared through news releases.

The exchange program is made possible through \$11,000 in grant funding secured 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 Bennett Sheet Metal & Heating, Just Wood Stoves, Quality Stoves and Fireplaces Ltd and Guardian Chimney Services. 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 Terri Martin at the City of Campbell River at 250-286-5711 or by email at terri.martin@campbellriver.ca.

– 30 –

Contact: Terri Martin, Environmental Coordinator

250-286-5711
