

# Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable Report

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Chair



# Clean Air Forum March 2008

- **1995:** Quesnel has poorest air quality in BC.
- Quesnel Environmental Society, Industry and Ministry of Environment agreed the solution was to look at all pollution sources.
- 36 presentations were made to various health, education and government agencies.
- **1999:** Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable (QAQR) was formed.
- Plan written by members of the Roundtable based on 3 years of Scientific research. All 26 recommendations were consensus approved.
- Plan to reduce P.M. 2.5 **30%** by **2010**.
- QAQR is a community led group: no authority to enforce recommendations.
- Public education through the Baker Creek Enhancement Society.
- Roundtable meets yearly to report on updates from each stakeholder and the latest in scientific research.
- Three criteria: What have you done in the last year? What is your plan for the next 12 months? What is your long term plan?



# Members of the Roundtable:

The Quesnel Environmental Society, Quesnel Waste Disposal Ltd. West Fraser Mills, Ministry of Forests, C&C Wood Products, Weldwood of Canada, Cariboo pulp and Paper, Cariboo Regional District, Tolko Industries, City of Quesnel, Quesnel River Pulp, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation, HMC Services, Canfor, North Cariboo Share our Resources Society, Westpine MDF, and Northern Health.



# Challenges

Dust control, weather, industrial traffic.

## Mitigative Actions:

- Road dust: City work on drainage to reduce the amount of track-out in the area and help with dust control.
- Implementing the recommendations of a community based Roundtable: Currently no accountability, but there are City implemented bylaws.
- Public Education: must continue as it is the only way to affect human behaviour in order to improve air quality. Both city and MOE are funding this recommendation.

Economic situation faced by the forestry sector in our region. Has a large influence on a voluntary process like ours. Not much money, therefore likely to be looking at upgrades to equipment, and more likely to implement anti-idling and reducing rehals as cost saver and benefits to us.



# SUCCESSSES

- **Burner Removal.**
- **Wood Stove Exchange** for the Cariboo for 2007 was very successful: 263 stoves removed.
- **Total Reduced Sulfur (TRS)** is below Level A objective 99.5 % of the time.
- **Fine Particulate speciation program** initiated in June of 2007 - March of 2009.
- **Truck bypass route** in the works by City and CRD, and the Ministry of Highways.
- **Anti Idling Ambassador** from BC Conservation Corp May through August 2008.
- **Electrostatic Precipitators** added to the wood-fired energy system at West Fraser Mills.
- **Air Quality Web Site** should be on line by the end of April. [www.quesnelairshed.org](http://www.quesnelairshed.org)
- **Roundtable trust** has developed a large degree over the years on all sides.
- **Public awareness** education is a good success.
- **Public attention of PM2.5**
- **Air quality improvement** over the year: we must realize we live in a bowl with inversions not sure it will ever be perfect.

**Need to continue to examine ways to improve emissions in all sectors.**



Thank you!!

Questions

Air Quality Website available April, 2008

[www.quesnelairshed.org](http://www.quesnelairshed.org)

