



# Air Quality Briefing Note

**Date:** September 2017

**Issued by:** Jo Graber, Chair

**Agency:** PACHA – People’s Action Committee for Healthy Air

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## **The Roundtable’s 2016 Phase III PM<sub>2.5</sub> Goal is:**

- A 40% reduction from all significant sources;
- A daily average not to exceed 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air; and
- An annual average of 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

## **The following questions were posed of each member of the Roundtable**

### **What have you done in the last 12 months?**

Our mission is to effect improvement in air quality in the Prince George air shed through advocacy, education, research, collaboration and other associated methods.

- Several PACHA members participated in the successful, concerted effort to stop the development of a BC Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility, an industrial land use, at 18<sup>th</sup> and Foothills Blvd. in a greenfield location rather than on one of several brownfield sites. PACHA felt that there was a local air quality concern, in addition to other environmental, traffic and loss of recreational property worries in a predominately residential and community recreation zoned area.
- We began to upgrade the PACHA web site, pachapg.ca, to include links to the Plaza 400 Station Data, the TRS Factsheet from the Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable, as well as an article, “Air Quality Health Index not good assessment of risk”, which explains why that is the case due to multiple pollutants as well as a lag in indicators based on 24 hour rolling averages.
- We participated in a tabling event in March 2017 at the Wellness North Expo 2017 at the Civic Centre. We learned that we must choose the events we participate in more wisely to increase our outreach effectiveness.

### **What are you planning to do in the next 12 months?**

PACHA will review its strategic plan and derive an implementation strategy and business plan to suit.

We will especially be considering integrating the air quality issues, which were the founding issues for PACHA, with several other associated environmental issues that impact the determinants of human health in our urban environment.

### **What is your long-term plan to meet the 2016 goal?**

In addition to the activities identified above, we learned that the Foothills Transit Facility was not on the “radar” at the Roundtable. As Chair of PACHA, I am concerned that the issue was not brought to the Roundtable. Local air quality is as important, if not more so, as the PG Airshed air quality. PACHA would like to assist the Roundtable to provide a more proactive approach to emerging issues in an urban planning context.

**Please indicate your self-assessed progress during the past 12 months:**

Low to Medium High