



Media News Release

Date: March 8, 2016

Subject: Keeping the Dust Down this Spring

For Immediate Release (Prince George, BC) - The Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR) is releasing a [new video](#) today, part three in a series of short animated videos focusing on air quality emissions. The goal of the videos is to increase awareness of emission sources, and encourage action among the residential and commercial sectors to help address particular issues that they can help with.

This third video focuses on dust in the spring. Now is the time of year when roads dry up, and clean up of aggregate materials deployed for winter traction begins. The start of this season has occurred earlier and earlier over the past several years, with milder temperatures and dry roads often appearing in mid-February. Dust from roads and parking lots is kicked up due to wind, vehicle traffic, and sweeping activities.

“PGAIR reminds residents and businesses to do their part by keeping parked vehicles out of the way of street sweeping operations, avoiding driving on the road shoulders where aggregate has built up, and employing some simple best practices when sweeping parking lots and walkways,” says Tiffany Bonnett, Manager for PGAIR. “The City sends an annual letter to private lot owners and sweeping contractors to remind them of the Clean Air Bylaw requirements, such as spraying down water prior to sweeping, using dust filters for vacuum sweepers, and ceasing sweeping during an air quality advisory.”

There is a large demand on sweeping contractors through the spring and summer, and businesses are encouraged to take advantage of the earlier spring weather, by getting an early start on sweeping their parking lots.

Resources:

- 1) Video - Keeping the Dust Down: available at www.pgairquality.com, or embed the video on your website from YouTube: <https://youtu.be/7GbPVGW065U>
- 2) City of Prince George Reminder Notice: http://princegeorge.ca/environment/airquality/Documents/Parking_Lot_Sweeping_Notice_-_AQ.pdf
- 3) Information on City Street Sweeping operations and Parking Restrictions: <http://princegeorge.ca/cityservices/transportation/streetsweeping/Pages/Default.aspx>
- 4) To check for air quality advisories: www.bcairquality.ca

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PGAIR is a non-profit society representing a broad spectrum of the community, including the public, government, industry, Northern Health, UNBC, PACHA, commercial and transportation sectors. PGAIR is working towards continuous improvement of the air quality within the Prince George airshed, and coordinates various programs and communication initiatives in support of this effort. PGAIR also coordinates research and provides science-based recommendations to various stakeholders and decision making bodies to help improve air quality.