



Media News Release

Date: 18th December 2018

Subject: 2019 Wood Stove Exchange Program

For Immediate Release (Prince George, BC) - The Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR) is pleased to announce the return of the Wood Stove Exchange Program this year. This is an initiative by the Provincial Government to encourage people to exchange their older, smoky wood burning appliances for low emission appliances, including gas, pellet, and EPA-certified clean burning wood stoves or inserts.

Residential wood burning is a significant source of fine particulate matter (PM) in BC, including Prince George. Aimed at improving community air quality and achieving reductions in particulate matter, this program helps create awareness about the dangers of wood smoke by providing education on clean burning techniques through workshops, pamphlets, websites, and social media.

The 2019 Wood Stove Exchange Program is limited to 30 rebates, and invites eligible residents of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to trade in their old wood stove for a new emissions certified wood burning, natural gas, pellet appliance or electric models and receive a \$500 rebate. Program participants who require a Heating Unit Permit through the Regional District are eligible to receive an additional \$130 towards their permit fee.

The PGAIR Wood Stove Exchange Program is a partnership with the BC Lung Association and the Province of BC, and is also supported locally through contributions from local governments.

Further information and application forms can be found on the PGAIR website, or by phoning 250-612-0252.

Resources:

- 1) PGAIR Wood Stove Exchange Program Website: <http://www.pgairquality.com/Programs>
- 2) Burn It Clean Tips: <http://www.pgairquality.com/Programs/burn-it-clean>
- 3) BC Wood Stove Exchange Program Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/exchange>

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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.