

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009
9:00 a.m.
2nd Floor Boardroom
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC**

Committee Members:

Chair, Director Joe Trasolini, Port Moody
Vice Chair, Director Linda Hepner, Surrey
Councillor Linda Barnes, Richmond
Director Sav Dhaliwal, Burnaby
Director Heather Deal, Vancouver
Director Ralph Drew, Belcarra
Director Peter Frinton, Bowen Island
Director Gayle Martin, Langley City
Director Richard Walton, North Vancouver District
Director Hal Weinberg, Anmore
Councillor Lorrie Williams, New Westminster

Please advise Georgeta Stanese at (604) 432-6269 if you are unable to attend.



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**NOTICE TO THE GVRD
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.**

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 April 7, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Staff Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for April 7, 2009 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Staff Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held March 10, 2009 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Fred Nenninger – Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department

Subject: Environmental Aspects of the Draft Liquid Waste Management Plan.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Implementation of Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program

Designated Speaker: Roger Quan, Division Manager

Policy and Planning Department

Recommendations:

That the Board authorize the next steps in the implementation of Metro Vancouver's wood stove exchange program by:

- a) Directing staff to publish Metro Vancouver's intention to work with the individual wood burning appliance retailers listed in (b) below to carry out the program, and
- b) Authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer or the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a partnering agreement with each of the following retailers to establish the terms and conditions of the services they would provide to Metro Vancouver as part of the program:
 - i) Vaglio Fireplaces, Vancouver, BC
 - ii) Fireplace by Maxwell, North Vancouver, BC
 - iii) Solace Homeworks, Burnaby, BC
 - iv) Mr. Fireplace Ltd., Surrey, BC
 - v) Warm Hearth Heating Center, Maple Ridge, BC
 - vi) Alpha Home Energy, Abbotsford, BC
 - vii) The Olde Stove Works, Mission, BC
 - viii) R.E. MacDonald Stoves and Stones Ltd., Township of Langley, BC
 - ix) Canadian Tire Corporation Limited, Head Office, Toronto, Ontario
 - x) Firemaster Energy Options, Township of Langley, BC
 - xi) ARC Technologies, Township of Langley, BC
 - xii) Dave's Heat Zone, City of Langley, BC
 - xiii) Delco Fireplaces, City of Langley, BC.

5.2 Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River

Designated Speakers: Albert van Roodselaar, Division Manager and Derek Bonin, Planning Forester, Policy and Planning Department

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 26, 2009, titled "Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River".

5.3 Emission Reduction Activities for Schools in the Metro Vancouver Region

Designated Speakers: Laurie Bates-Frymel, Air Quality Planner, Policy and Planning Department and Bruce Ford, Education Coordinator, Corporate Relations

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 17, 2009, titled "Emission Reduction Activities for Schools in the Metro Vancouver Region".

5.4 Metro Vancouver West Nile Virus Strategy for 2009

*Designated Speaker: David Major, Program Analyst
Regional Parks*

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 17, 2009, titled "Metro Vancouver West Nile Virus Strategy for 2009".

5.5 Manager's Report

Designated Speaker: Hugh Kellas, Manager

Policy and Planning Department

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 30, 2009, titled "Manager's Report".

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Ban on Wood-burning Fireplaces – Correspondence dated March 9, 2009 from Brie Oishi addressed to the Environment and Energy Committee.

6.2 Flame Retardants – Correspondence dated February 23, 2009 from Honourable Jim Prentice addressed to Chair Lois Jackson.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

8. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Staff Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee conclude its regular meeting of April 7, 2009.

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MINUTES

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**GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Environment and Energy Committee held at 9:02 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 in the 2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

PRESENT:

Chair, Director Joe Trasolini, Port Moody
 Vice Chair, Director Linda Hepner, Surrey
 Director Heather Deal, Vancouver
 Director Sav Dhaliwal, Burnaby (departed at 10:58 a.m.)
 Director Ralph Drew, Belcarra
 Director Peter Frinton, Bowen Island
 Director Gayle Martin, Langley City (departed at 10:24 a.m.)
 Director Richard Walton, North Vancouver District (arrived at 9:32 a.m.)
 Director Hal Weinberg, Anmore
 Councillor Lorrie Williams, New Westminster

ABSENT:

Councillor Linda Barnes, Richmond

STAFF:

Johnny Carline, Chief Administrative Officer
 Hugh Kellas, Manager, Policy and Planning Department
 Janis Olsen, Assistant to Regional Committees, Corporate Secretary's Department

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1.1 March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda****It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Environment and Energy Committee:

- a) amend the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for March 10, 2009 by:
 - i. renumbering Item 5.7 Manager's Report to 5.8;
 - ii. adding Item 5.7 Waste to Energy Educational Tour in Sweden, May 23-30, 2009;
 - iii. replacing attachment 2 of Item 5.5;
 - iv. adding on-table Item 5.3 DVD;
 - v. adding Item 7.1 Earth Hour; and
- b) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held February 10, 2009 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Ecological Health Plan Framework

Report dated February 17, 2009 from Erin Embley, Regional Planner, Policy and Planning Department, providing a preliminary Ecological Health Plan (EHP) report and framework to the Environment and Energy Committee for early feedback and direction on the development of the plan.

Members were provided a presentation on the Ecological Health Plan Framework by Ed Andrusiak, Manager, Parks Department.

A copy of the presentation material is retained with the March 10, 2009 Environment and Energy Committee agenda package.

9:32 a.m.

Director Walton arrived at the meeting.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee endorse the approach outlined in the report dated February 17, 2009, titled "Ecological Health Plan Framework" for the Metro Vancouver Ecological Health Plan.

CARRIED

5.2 Development of a Residential Wood Smoke Emissions Reduction Program

Report dated February 25, 2009 from Roger Quan, Air Quality Planning Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department, and Mariam Kim, Senior Engineer, Policy and Planning Department, providing an update on the development of a Metro Vancouver Residential Wood Smoke Emissions Reduction Program and seeking authorization to implement the Metro Vancouver Wood Stove Exchange Program as an initial element of that program.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board:

- a) endorse the program as described in the report dated February 25, 2009, titled "Development of a Residential Wood Smoke Emissions Reduction Program" as a basis for further work, and
- b) authorize the implementation of a Metro Vancouver wood stove exchange program as an initial element of the residential wood smoke emissions reduction program by:
 - i.) authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to sign a grant agreement with the BC Lung Association to obtain provincial funding for the wood stove exchange program, and
 - ii.) directing staff to report further on identifying retailers that would participate in the wood stove exchange program and the steps required to formalize their participation.

CARRIED

5.3 Non-Road Diesel Emission Reduction Regulatory and Financial Incentive Initiative

Report dated February 12, 2009 from Ray Robb, Regulation and Enforcement Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department, providing further information regarding plans to develop regulations and seeking senior government financial incentives to reduce diesel emissions from non-road engines.

On-table DVD titled "Non-Road Diesel Emissions in Metro Vancouver" was distributed to members and a copy was retained with the March 10, 2009 Environment and Energy Committee agenda package.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board request funding from the federal and provincial governments to establish a diesel emission reduction fund to precede and complement a diesel regulatory initiative for non-road engines.

CARRIED

Directors Drew and Walton absent at the vote.

5.4 Metro Vancouver Environmental Regulatory Bylaw Enforcement Action in Progress or Resolved September 2008 – March 2009

Report dated February 13, 2009 from Grant McGillivray, Senior Officer, Policy and Planning Department, informing the Environment and Energy Committee and Waste Management Committee about enforcement actions taken by Metro Vancouver regulatory Programs to promote compliance with Metro Vancouver bylaws that support the Board's Air Quality, Liquid Waste and Solid Waste Management Plans.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated February 13, 2009, titled "Metro Vancouver Environmental Regulatory Bylaw Enforcement Action in Progress or Resolved September 2008 – March 2009".

CARRIED

5.5 Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues: Adapting to Climate Change

Report dated February 20, 2009 from Simon Cumming, Division Manager, External and Intergovernmental Relations, Corporate Relations Department, providing information to the Regional Planning Committee and Environment and Energy Committee on the four regional Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues on Adapting to Climate Change.

The committee was informed that attachment 2 media articles circulated previous to the meeting via email replaces those sent with the original agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board direct staff to consider the report dated February 20, 2009 titled "Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues: Adapting to Climate Change" in the context of developing a Climate Change Strategy.

CARRIED

5.6 Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent

Report dated February 24, 2009 from Albert van Roodselaar, Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department, reporting to the Environment and Energy Committee and Waste Management Committee on the specifics of the finalized Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent.

10:24 a.m.

Director Martin departed the meeting.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated February 24, 2009, titled "Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent".

CARRIED

Director Drew absent at the vote.

5.7 Waste to Energy Educational Tour in Sweden, May 23-30, 2009

Report dated February 28, 2009 from Hugh Kellas, Manager, Policy and Planning Department, informing the Environment and Energy Committee and Waste Management Committee of an invitation to attend a Waste to Energy Educational Tour in Sweden, May 23-30, 2009.

The committee was advised that this item will be before the Waste Management Committee at their meeting of March 11, 2009. Those committee members interested in attending were asked to look at their schedules and advise Hugh Kellas of their interest to be considered.

Request of Staff:

Staff was requested to compile a list of committee members wishing to be considered to attend the Waste to Energy Educational Tour in Sweden, May 23-30, 2009.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- the benefits of this intensive training is worth the cost
- participants are expected to return and train and share with other committee members and staff
- the Environment and Energy Committee should work with the Waste Management Committee to build capacity of knowledge and training opportunities

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board approve up to three members from Metro Vancouver's Environment and Energy Committee to participate in the Waste to Energy Educational Tour in Sweden, May 23-30, 2009.

CARRIED

5.8 Manager's Report

Report dated February 25, 2009 from Hugh Kellas, Manager, Policy and Planning Department, informing on the following: the BC Ferries Fuel Purchases Policy, LNG Shore Power Technology and Updating the Air Quality Monitoring Network.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated February 25, 2009, titled "Manager's Report".

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 BC Air Action Plan

Letter dated January 20, 2009 from the Ministry of Environment addressed to Chair Lois Jackson and Metro Vancouver Board of Directors.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the letter dated January 20, 2009 from the Ministry of Environment addressed to Chair Lois Jackson and Metro Vancouver Board of Directors.

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Earth Hour

The Committee members were informed that Earth Hour will be on March 28, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at which time people are encouraged to turn off appliances and lights to reduce energy. Interested participants can sign up or get further details at www.earthhour.org.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That The Board endorse Earth Hour on March 28, 2009 and encourage member municipalities to participate and commit to spreading the word in their communities.

10:58 a.m.

Director Dhaliwal departed the meeting.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Environment and Energy Committee conclude its regular meeting of March 10, 2009.

CARRIED

(Time: 10:59 a.m.)

Janis Olsen
Assistant to Regional Committees

Joe Trasolini, Chair

REPORTS

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Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Date: April 7, 2009

To: Environment and Energy Committee
From: Roger Quan, Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department
Date: March 17, 2009
Subject: **Implementation of Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program**

Recommendations:

That the Board authorize the next steps in the implementation of Metro Vancouver's wood stove exchange program by:

- a) Directing staff to publish Metro Vancouver's intention to work with the individual wood burning appliance retailers listed in (b) below to carry out the program, and
- b) Authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer or the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a partnering agreement with each of the following retailers to establish the terms and conditions of the services they would provide to Metro Vancouver as part of the program:
 - i) Vaglio Fireplaces, Vancouver, BC
 - ii) Fireplace by Maxwell, North Vancouver, BC
 - iii) Solace Homeworks, Burnaby, BC
 - iv) Mr. Fireplace Ltd., Surrey, BC
 - v) Warm Hearth Heating Center, Maple Ridge, BC
 - vi) Alpha Home Energy, Abbotsford, BC
 - vii) The Olde Stove Works, Mission, BC
 - viii) R.E. MacDonald Stoves and Stones Ltd., Township of Langley, BC
 - ix) Canadian Tire Corporation Limited, Head Office, Toronto, Ontario
 - x) Firemaster Energy Options, Township of Langley, BC
 - xi) ARC Technologies, Township of Langley, BC
 - xii) Dave's Heat Zone, City of Langley, BC
 - xiii) Delco Fireplaces, City of Langley, BC.

1. PURPOSE

To seek Board authorization to implement the next steps in Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program.

2. CONTEXT

On March 27, 2009, the Board endorsed the development of a residential wood smoke emissions reduction program. This authorized staff to proceed with a wood stove exchange program as an initial element of the wood smoke program, and staff was directed to report further on identifying retailers that would participate in the exchange program, and the steps required to formalize their participation.

The wood stove exchange program is not meant to encourage more residential wood burning in the region. Rather, its intent is to make use of funding available through the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program to reduce wood smoke impacts by:

- Providing an incentive for residents who presently heat their homes using an uncertified wood burning appliance to replace their old devices with a newer, lower emission appliance (including a certified wood stove, pellet stove, electric insert or high efficiency gas stove/fireplace). Certified wood stoves, if operated properly, can lead to as much as 70% reduction in fine particulate matter emissions.
- Educating residents on how to burn wood effectively (in certified or non-certified devices) in order to reduce the amount of wood smoke in their community.
- Providing a mechanism for the permanent removal through recycling of all old wood stoves collected during the program.

Program Implementation

A number of steps must be followed to put the wood stove exchange program in place.

1. Funding for the wood stove exchange program is being provided by the BC Wood Stove Exchange Program through a grant agreement between Metro Vancouver and the BC Lung Association, which is acting as a representative of the Steering Committee. In March, the Board authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to sign this agreement, enabling the transfer of funds for the program.
2. Home heating retailers will play an important role in the exchange program, by confirming eligibility of homeowners for rebates, ensuring removal of non-certified wood stoves, and distributing educational materials. The program will provide limited assistance to the participating retailers by advertising their names on program promotional materials. Under *the Local Government Act*, the GVRD Board may provide assistance to an industrial, commercial or business undertaking only under a partnering agreement. Approximately 65 retailers have been contacted, and this report seeks authorization for Metro Vancouver to enter into a partnering agreement with each retailer that has expressed an interest in participating in the program. Two of the retailers are outside of Metro Vancouver, but have indicated that they sell wood burning appliances to customers in the Metro Vancouver region. Retailers outside of Metro Vancouver will only be allowed to issue a rebate voucher to homeowners in Metro Vancouver.
3. An additional requirement under the *Local Government Act* is that the Board must publish its intention to provide certain kinds of assistance, including assistance under a partnering agreement. Furthermore, this notice must be published before the assistance is provided. Accordingly, this report seeks authorization for staff to provide public notification of Metro Vancouver's intent to enter into partnering agreements with the participating retailers for the purpose of implementing the wood stove exchange program.

3. ALTERNATIVES

The Board may:

- a) Authorize staff to proceed with the next steps of the Metro Vancouver Wood Stove Exchange Program by:
 - (i) directing staff to publish Metro Vancouver's intention to work with participating retailers, as required under the *Local Government Act*, and

- (ii) authorizing the CAO or Deputy CAO to enter into partnering agreements with individual retailers participating in the Program.
- Or
- b) Refer the report back to staff with direction to consider additional or different course(s) of action.

4. CONCLUSION

Metro Vancouver has been successful in obtaining provincial funding from the BC Wood Stove Exchange Steering Committee. The Environment and Energy Committee and Board of Directors have previously authorized the CAO to execute a grant agreement between Metro Vancouver and the BC Lung Association (acting as a representative of the BC Wood Stove Exchange Steering Committee) and transfer the necessary funds for the program.

The wood stove exchange program provides a community-wide benefit by improving air quality in neighborhoods in Metro Vancouver through reductions in wood smoke emissions. Wood-burning appliance retailers will play an important role in delivering the program, and will receive some limited assistance as a result of advertising and outreach. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, staff seek authorization to enter into partnering agreements with the participating retailers, and to provide suitable publication of Metro Vancouver's intent to enter into partnering agreements with those retailers.

As noted in the February report to the Committee, the wood stove exchange program is an initial element in a broader wood smoke emissions reduction program. Staff is developing additional elements including regulatory and non-regulatory aspects.

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To: Environment and Energy Committee
Water Committee

From: Albert van Roodselaar, Division Manager, Policy and Planning Department
Derek Bonin, Planning Forester, Policy and Planning Department

Date: March 26, 2009

Subject: **Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River**

Environment and Energy Committee Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 26, 2009, titled "Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River".

Water Committee Recommendation:

That the Water Committee receive for information the report dated March 26, 2009, titled "Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River".

1. PURPOSE

To update the Environment and Energy Committee on the progress to increase the survival of salmonid smolts that migrate on the Capilano River and the development of long-term solutions for resolving fisheries issues on the Capilano River.

2. CONTEXT

In 2007, a presentation to the Water Committee identified the Cleveland Dam as creating adverse impacts on the survival of coho and steelhead fish stocks in the Capilano River. Metro Vancouver is currently collaborating with senior governments to develop long-term solutions for fisheries issues associated with the operation of the Cleveland Dam. Fisheries issues include habitat conditions in the lower Capilano River and fish passage over the Cleveland Dam.

In 2008, a Capilano salmonid smolt trap and truck pilot project was implemented by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ministry of Environment, and BC Conservation – Living Rivers to reduce the smolt mortality caused by the Cleveland Dam. Metro Vancouver engaged the services of InStream Fisheries Research Inc. and the Squamish Nation to provide a fisheries biologist and fisheries technicians to implement the Capilano smolt trap and truck project with considerable assistance from DFO and Living Rivers. The migrating salmonids were caught in rotary screw traps in the upper Capilano River and net traps along the shoreline of the Capilano Reservoir. The coho salmon (9,802 smolts) and the steelhead trout (314 smolts) were transported below the Cleveland Dam and released into the lower Capilano River at the DFO Capilano Salmon Hatchery. The project operated from March 26 to June 26, 2008, and resulted in transporting an estimated 24 percent of the salmonid yield from the upper watershed. Samples of the captured smolts were measured, weighed, and tagged throughout the migration period to improve the understanding of the coho and steelhead populations in the Capilano River in terms of health, movement, distribution, trap efficiencies, smolt yield, smolt survival, and adult returns.

In 2009, a collaborative Capilano salmonid smolt trap and truck project is being implemented with modifications based on experiences from the 2008 pilot project. InStream Fisheries Research Inc. have again been hired for their experience with this type of work and will provide for staff training. Fisheries technicians are hired from the Squamish Nation, Metro Vancouver staff are being trained to service the trap nets on the reservoir, and DFO staff from the Capilano Fish Hatchery are also providing manpower. BC Conservation – Living Rivers has provided funding for additional trap nets to increase the capture rate of smolts from the reservoir. The smolts captured in the reservoir appear to be larger and more suited for ocean survival than the smolts captured in the upper river, prior to entering the reservoir. Rotary screw traps will continue to be used in the Capilano River but primarily to determine salmonid yield from the upper watershed. Smolts will be released at the mouth of the Capilano River in addition to the release at the Capilano Fish Hatchery to assess the survival rate of smolts migrating in the lower Capilano River.

Modifications to the pool at the base of the Cleveland Dam are being assessed to try to increase the survival rate of migrating smolts that bypass the trap and truck operation, from over the dam and plunge into this pool. The rocks at the edge of this pool form a potential hazard to the smolt passing over the dam. An assessment has been undertaken to determine the requirement involved in removing these rocks. The current downstream containment structure is also being assessed with respect to increasing the pool depth.

A range of options are being investigated for a long-term cost-effective smolt passage system at the Cleveland Dam to maximize the rate of survival for smolts migrating from the reservoir to the lower Capilano River. The senior government agencies do not feel we have sufficient information as yet to determine a long-term strategy. Consistent with the advice from agencies, the short-term initiative to reduce smolt mortality through trap and transport operations is being combined with a parallel effort to collect information on fish patterns to use in determining a long-term strategy.

The joint Capilano-Seymour water use planning process will be a complementary initiative. Habitat assessments in conjunction with existing inventory data will be completed on the Capilano river system in preparation for the planning process. This assessment will include:

- Classifying and mapping the river channels and habitat types
- Identifying fish passage obstacles under certain flow conditions
- Determining species presence and life histories in each reach of the river
- Quantifying deficiencies in habitat such as spawning gravel, large woody debris, and off-channel habitat, and
- Evaluating the productivity of the aquatic ecosystem that is influenced by available nutrients, water temperature and water depth.

This will help determine the Capilano watershed projected carrying capacity for the salmonids and will be used in the design of long-term fish passage systems. The habitat assessment will also provide the necessary information to identify restoration opportunities in the river system.

3. ALTERNATIVES

None presented.

4. CONCLUSION

Metro Vancouver is collaborating with other agencies to address fish population concerns. Management of a safe, reliable source of drinking water while managing the utilization of fish habitat in Metro Vancouver watersheds demonstrates long-term watershed sustainability.



Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Date: April 7, 2009

To: Environment and Energy Committee

From: Laurie Bates-Frymel, Air Quality Planner, Policy and Planning Department
Bruce Ford, Education Coordinator, Corporate Relations Department

Date: March 17, 2009

Subject: **Emission Reduction Activities for Schools in the Metro Vancouver Region**

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 17, 2009, titled "Emission Reduction Activities for Schools in the Metro Vancouver Region".

1. PURPOSE

To provide information about Metro Vancouver's efforts to reduce emissions at schools including a partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment's Youth Climate Leadership Alliance.

2. CONTEXT

In October 2008, the Environment and Energy Committee received information about the Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions (HASTE) program, which is an online action centre for teachers, parents and students, providing information about greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and anti-idling. During that Committee meeting staff were requested to provide more information about Metro Vancouver's efforts to assist schools reduce transportation emissions from vehicle idling and use of vehicles to and from schools. This report describes some of Metro Vancouver's joint efforts with the BC Ministry of Environment's Youth Climate Leadership Alliance to reduce school related emissions.

In 2007 the BC Government enacted the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (Bill 44) which requires all public sector organizations to be carbon neutral by 2010, including all BC school districts and post-secondary institutions. The eleven school districts in Metro Vancouver each face unique opportunities and challenges with respect to achieving this mandate under Bill 44. Thus, the level of engagement in emission reductions and offsetting activities varies widely across the Metro Vancouver region's eleven school districts. Metro Vancouver staff members and other partners are working to support schools and school districts where possible in ways that are most appropriate for each school.

One key component of Metro Vancouver's current work with schools is a partnership between Metro Vancouver and the BC Government. Metro Vancouver is hosting and guiding the work of two Climate Action Facilitators through the BC Ministry of Environment's Youth Climate Leadership Alliance (YCLA). The goal of the YCLA is to engage youth (age 30 and under) in on-the-ground climate action and sustainability programs. Twelve Climate

Action Facilitators have been placed with municipalities, regional districts, universities, and non-governmental organizations across BC to ensure that the YCLA work connects well with local programs and reflects local priorities. The two Climate Action Facilitators are working with Metro Vancouver Staff. In the Metro Vancouver region the key target audiences include students, teachers, schools and school districts. With respect to students, the program focuses on providing them with the knowledge to take climate action and facilitating youth leadership to inspire others. For teachers, the Climate Action Facilitators work to bridge knowledge and resource gaps to facilitate taking action on sustainability in their classrooms with their students. Teachers are being engaged through existing programs such as Metro Vancouver's K-12 teacher training and the Pembina Foundations' Green Learning program.

To support schools in reaching their carbon neutral targets, the Ministry of Education has established the Green Schools program, which works in close partnership with the YCLA. On February 9, 2009 the Green Schools program hosted the Sustainable Schools Forum. The forum aimed to inspire education leaders to create a culture of environmental sustainability in all aspects of the K-12 education system. Over 300 teachers, school administrators and operational staff from school districts learned about the greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives currently taking place in BC school districts, as well as ways to address emissions from both the operational and educational perspectives. From this initial province-wide discussion, the YCLA and Green Schools hope to build local school action plans which include youth leadership, curriculum and instructional leadership, school transportation alternatives, energy and water conservation, waste diversion and school operations purchasing policy components.

In addition to their involvement with the Sustainable Schools Forum and its outcomes, the Climate Action Facilitators in Metro Vancouver have been working on the following initiatives which foster school-related emission reductions and/or offsets:

- **Anti-idling programs** – Continuing from the 2008 summer Idle-Free Ambassador program, the Climate Action Facilitators have been assisting interested schools and municipalities with social marketing campaigns related to idling reduction and providing anti-idling signage and outreach materials.
- **HASTE** – The HASTE (Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions -- www.hastebc.org) is an online resource and networking centre designed to help students, teachers and schools reduce vehicle-related emissions. The HASTE now includes an action showcase map which highlights the actions that individual schools are taking to reduce the impacts of their travel behaviour. The Climate Action Facilitators continue to promote the HASTE site to students, teachers and schools.
- **Metro Vancouver Youth4Action Webpages** – Soon to be launched, these webpages will provide tools, resources, and inspiration for youth working on sustainability and highlight projects and events planned by the YCLA, Metro Vancouver and other partners. The Youth4Action pages will be linked to existing pages targeting Metro Vancouver K-12 teachers.
- **Network of Groups Supporting Youth Sustainability Leadership and Action** – Chaired by the Climate Action Facilitators, this Network brings together a wide range of organizations that support youth sustainability work in Metro Vancouver.

Key deliverables to date include: a matrix of youth sustainability-focused organizations which helps to identify service gaps, opportunities for collaboration, and ways to increase uptake by students and teachers; and a list of funding gaps and opportunities for cost-sharing. The network hopes to organize a celebratory school year end event.

- **Trees for Tomorrow** – The Climate Action Facilitators have also been involved with the delivery of the Trees for Tomorrow program. This five-year, \$13-million BC Government initiative aims to plant four million trees in schoolyards, hospital grounds, civic parks and other public spaces in BC. The Trees for Tomorrow program is being implemented through a public-private partnership model, involving cost-sharing with a range of applicants and stewardship organizations. Several schools have already taken advantage of the carbon offsetting potential of this initiative.
- **BC Green Games** – Hosted by Science World and sponsored by the BC Ministry of Education this province-wide contest challenges groups of students to implement environmental actions in their schools and classrooms and creatively document their efforts in a digital format. \$50,000 in prizes will be directly awarded to schools through this program. The Climate Action Facilitators have been heavily involved in promoting this event to schools in Metro Vancouver and judging student action project submissions.

The BC Government is also developing software which will help school districts and other public sector organizations calculate the emissions associated with their buildings, vehicles, business travel and consumption. The SMARTTool software will assist school districts establish emission reduction targets, track progress and calculate expected offset purchase requirements.

3. ALTERNATIVES

None presented.

4. CONCLUSION

Bill 44 requires all public sector organizations, including school districts, to be carbon neutral by 2010. The BC Government and several organizations, including Metro Vancouver, are providing schools with the knowledge and tools to reduce their emissions through programs such as the Youth Climate Leadership Alliance. As part of this program, two Climate Action Facilitators have been working on a number of initiatives, including Anti-Idling, Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions (HASTE), and Trees for Tomorrow, which foster school-related emission reductions and/or offsets.

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Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Date: April 7, 2009

To: Environment and Energy Committee
From: David Major, Program Analyst, Regional Parks
Date: March 17, 2009
Subject: **Metro Vancouver West Nile Virus Strategy for 2009**

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 17, 2009, titled "Metro Vancouver West Nile Virus Strategy for 2009".

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Environment and Energy Committee with an update on the revised strategy on Metro Vancouver lands to prevent West Nile virus.

2. CONTEXT

Health Authorities, Metro Vancouver, and municipalities in the West Nile Virus Service Function have been working together to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) on public lands since 2004. To date WNV has not arrived in British Columbia, although Washington State had a record number of cases in 2008: 3 humans, 41 horses, 22 birds, and 57 mosquito samples were found positive.

The reasons that WNV has not arrived in BC or Metro Vancouver are not clear; however we potentially have the climatic conditions to support the virus and have high populations throughout Metro Vancouver of the species of mosquitoes capable of carrying the virus.

Metro Vancouver will continue in 2009 to help reduce the threat from WNV on Corporate Lands by monitoring levels of mosquitoes capable of carrying WNV and by treating water bodies and catch basins with bacterial larvicide where necessary. Contrary to previous years, the focus of monitoring will be at facilities where we now know the risk is greatest, including sewage lagoons, catch basins, stagnant ponds, and ditches.

Provincial and Regional Health Authorities view the risk low enough to recommend against larval mosquito surveillance and larviciding, choosing instead to focus on adult mosquito surveillance, public education, and, as a last resort, in the case of a significant WNV outbreak, adult mosquito control.

By continuing to carry out this work, Metro Vancouver will be applying the Precautionary Principle to disease prevention and proactively working to reduce the likelihood that potentially harmful chemical adulticides will need to be used. Adulticide use has been shown to be harmful to non-target species, demonstrated to be less effective than

larviciding, and was identified by the Board as undesirable until all other remedies and courses of action have failed (July 2004).

New legislative requirements necessitate a Pest Management Plan registered by the Ministry of Environment before applying pesticides for West Nile virus prevention. This process will commence immediately and is targeted to be in place by July, following advertisements in local newspapers, allowing for public comment, and a First Nations consultation period of 45 days.

3. ALTERNATIVES

None provided.

4. CONCLUSION

Actions on West Nile virus prevention are being taken consistent with Metro Vancouver policy and Board resolutions, and are in line with the principles of the Ecological Health Plan currently being produced.



Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Date: April 7, 2009

To: Environment and Energy Committee
From: Hugh Kellas, Manager, Policy and Planning Department
Date: March 30, 2009
Subject: **Manager's Report**

Recommendation:

That the Environment and Energy Committee receive for information the report dated March 30, 2009, titled "Manager's Report".

2009 Environment and Energy Committee Work Program

Attachment 1 sets out the Committee's work program and schedule for 2009. This does not include all items to be brought before the Committee but the priorities previously determined by the Board and Committee. The matrix will be updated regularly to include new issues that arise, items requested by the Committee, and any changes in the schedule.

Joint Meeting with Fraser Valley Regional District

The Environment and Energy Committee has asked for a joint meeting with the FVRD Air Quality and Environment Committee. This joint meeting, which has occurred about once a year for a number of years, is an opportunity to discuss air quality and other environmental matters of common interest. Two subjects may be topical for a forthcoming meeting: implementation of improvements to the Lower Fraser Valley air quality monitoring system, and the air quality implications of solid waste management options. Staff are working with FVRD staff to identify a suitable time, possibly in late May or early June when more information on solid waste management and air quality is available.

Production and Supply of Low and Ultra Low Sulphur Fuels

At its February 10, 2009 meeting, the Environment and Energy Committee requested staff to report on the production and supply of low and ultra low sulphur diesel fuel in Metro Vancouver. Ultra-low sulphur diesel (i.e. not exceeding 15 parts per million sulphur content) has been available for onroad vehicles since 2006, when federal requirements came into effect. Low-sulphur diesel (up to 500 parts per million sulphur content) is no longer available at fuelling stations for onroad vehicles. Off-road diesel (i.e. for diesel equipment in the construction, industrial, agricultural, etc. sectors) is required to meet federal ultra-low sulphur requirements by 2010. However, national and local diesel fuel producers advise that ultra-low sulphur diesel is already being supplied for off-road diesel users and low-sulphur diesel is only supplied on a limited basis for some marine diesel applications (the federal ultra-low sulphur requirement for marine and locomotive diesel comes into effect in 2012). The early availability of ultra-low sulphur diesel for off-road applications is mainly due to production and supply reasons; refiners have found that it is more practical to supply just one grade of diesel fuel as opposed to several.

Staff Liaison with Sea-To-Sky Air Quality Coordinating Committee

At its February 10, 2009 meeting, the Environment and Energy Committee discussed coordination with adjacent regional districts in the airshed. Staff was requested to liaise with the Sea-to-Sky Air Quality Coordinating Committee (AQCC). The Sea-to-Sky AQCC is currently composed of representatives from the BC Ministry of Environment, local and regional governments, industries, First Nations and Metro Vancouver. Metro Vancouver staff has regularly attended Sea-to-Sky AQCC meetings since March 2005. Since that time the Sea-to-Sky AQCC developed an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Sea-to-Sky region, facilitated by the Sheltair Group Inc. Updates on the development of the Sea-to-Sky AQMP were provided to the Committee in March 2006 and September 2007. The Sea-to-Sky AQMP contains 18 actions, many of which are similar and complimentary to those in Metro Vancouver's AQMP. Some actions are unique to the Sea-to-Sky airshed, such as integrating transit systems, developing a Smoke Control Strategy for open burning, and lifecycle emission management for the pulp/paper industry.

While several actions in the Sea-to-Sky AQMP have been initiated to date at the local government level, others that require regional coordination have been more challenging. Metro Vancouver staff is currently assisting the Sea-to-Sky AQCC to develop a formal terms of reference which will facilitate coordinated AQMP implementation across the Sea-to-Sky/Howe Sound region.

Metro Vancouver's Corporate Diesel Emission Reductions

At its March 10, 2009 meeting, Metro Vancouver's Environment and Energy Committee asked staff to advise of progress on its corporate diesel emission reduction efforts and the cost of those efforts. Staff wishes to advise that diesel emissions from Metro Vancouver owned or contracted on-road diesel equipment have been substantially reduced. During 2008 and early 2009, Diesel Oxidation Catalyst systems and Closed Crankcase Filtration systems were retrofit on all Metro Vancouver's older on-road diesel vehicles (54 diesel engines at a total cost of \$84,000). Further, Metro Vancouver purchased two large hybrid vehicles in 2008 to replace two large on-road diesel vehicles. Also in 2008, Metro Vancouver's solid waste transportation services contractor, Arrow Transportation Systems Inc., committed to only using vehicles with 2007 or newer low emission engines. Similar standard contract specification language is being developed to promote further reductions in both on-road and non-road emissions from Metro Vancouver contractors. The remaining area, reducing emissions from Metro Vancouver's fleet of approximately 70 non-road diesel engines, is expected to cost several hundred thousand dollars. These costs will be considered in the 2010 budget.

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Partnership Update

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) Partnership recently completed a document titled, 'Strategic Directions for Biodiversity Conservation in the Metro Vancouver Region'. This document has built on the many years of work of the BCS Steering Committee, and it incorporates the findings and products of numerous other projects and reports. The document is currently posted on the Metro Vancouver website at:

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/planning/development/biodiversity/Pages/default.aspx>.

The structure of the BCS Partnership has recently changed. Following the completion of the Strategic Directions document in December 2008 the administration of the partnership moved to BIEAP/FREMP. They are now working on the organization and development of a Regional Biodiversity Forum scheduled for April 30, 2009 (see Attachment 2). The forum

will celebrate the work of the Steering Committee and the rich natural biodiversity of our region. The Strategic Directions document will be released at the forum.

Although no longer administrating the BCS Partnership, Metro Vancouver remains a participating member of the Steering Committee.

The BCS Partnership developed a significant body of research including regional habitat and biodiversity mapping in addition to the Strategic Directions document. These products provide a valuable information base for the participating organizations and will inform the Metro Vancouver Ecological Health Plan which is currently being developed.

Citizens' Conservation Council on Climate Action

In discussing its 2009 work program at its February 10, 2009 meeting, the Environment and Energy Committee requested that staff work with the Citizens' Conservation Council on Climate Action, a program of the provincial Climate Action Secretariat. The purpose of the Council is to "seek advice from leaders in various regions on the best ways to encourage people, groups and businesses in local communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop low carbon economic opportunities". Mayors Weinberg and Fassbender are members of the Council. Staff have been in contact with the Manager of the Council and will be making a presentation on Metro Vancouver's initiatives at an upcoming Conservation Council meeting.

District Energy Workshop

Metro Vancouver and the Urban Development Institute are co-sponsoring a workshop on experiences and opportunities in the development of district energy systems. The workshop, to be held on March 31, 2009, has attracted about 160 registrants from municipalities, the development industry, architecture and energy suppliers. The workshop will discuss various perspectives on current district energy projects and the opportunities for alternative energy such as sewer heat recovery. Staff will report on the outcomes of the workshop.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Environment and Energy Committee – 2009 Priorities (eRIM doc. #004906340).
- 2 Preliminary invitation for Regional Biodiversity Conservation Forum (eRIM doc. #004907791).

Environment and Energy Committee Priorities for 2009

1st Quarter

Key priorities

- 2009 work program
- Identify further regulatory and non-regulatory actions to reduce diesel emissions
- Implementation of air quality monitoring network improvements
- Ecological Health Plan goals and strategies framework
- Residential wood smoke emissions reduction program
- Status of the Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent

2nd Quarter

Key priorities

- Corporate Climate Change Strategy
- Consultation on reduction of non-road diesel emissions
- Joint meeting with Fraser Valley Regional District Air Quality and Environment Committee
- Environmental aspects of draft Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Implementation of residential wood stove change-out program
- Capilano salmonid smolt trap and truck project

Pending Requests of Staff

- Potential cooperation with school districts to reduce air emissions
- Presentations on cement industry emission reduction initiatives

3rd Quarter

Key priorities

- Preliminary Regional Climate Change Strategy
- Environmental aspects of draft Solid Waste Management Plan
- Interim report on development of Ecological Health Strategy
- Boundary Bay Ambient Monitoring Program
- Metro Vancouver Energy Projects

Pending Requests of Staff

- Progress report on rail air emission reduction initiatives

4th Quarter

Key priorities

- Results of non-road diesel emission reduction consultations and proposed regulations
- First draft of Ecological Health Strategy
- 2010 Environment and Energy Committee program
- Burrard Inlet Ambient Monitoring Program

5.5 ATTACHMENT 2

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Partnership invites you to the launch of:



The **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Partnership** for the Metro Vancouver Region is an initiative under the Georgia Basin Action Plan involving Metro Vancouver, Environment Canada, BC Ministry of Environment and BIEAP-FREMP working in conjunction with municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), stewardship groups and post-secondary institutions.

This ongoing project has required significant technical assessment and consultation over the past seven years. The past two years have involved synthesizing background studies and developing specific strategies and implementation measures through a document outlining Strategic Directions for Biodiversity Conservation in the region.

On **April 30, 2009**, BIEAP-FREMP will be hosting a **Regional Biodiversity Conservation Forum** to launch the 'Strategic Directions for Biodiversity Conservation in the Metro Vancouver Region' report completed in December 2008.

Forum Objectives

- To celebrate and recognize the value of biodiversity in the region
- To motivate and galvanize efforts for biodiversity conservation
- To promote collaborative implementation of the Strategic Directions

Who is Invited

- This event is geared toward people actively planning, educating, researching, motivating and driving local and regional environmental change
- You are receiving this invitation as you are someone who contributes to biodiversity in the region
- Space will be limited to identified groups and individuals or their alternates

Keynote Speakers

Mike Harcourt: Mike Harcourt is a former premier of British Columbia. Between 1996 and 2004, Mike was appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as a member of the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy where he served on the Executive Committee and Chaired the Urban Sustainability Program. He also guided the Province through sensitive debates on land use issues and provided a vision and leadership on environmental concerns. He remains a dedicated advocate for sustainable development and is a sustainable cities and communities speaker, writer and advisor.

Dr. Faisal Moola: Dr. Moola is the Director of Terrestrial Conservation and Science Program at the David Suzuki Foundation. He is a Conservation Biologist and has published widely in scientific journals on wildlife biology, plant ecology, conservation and environmental policy. He has conducted research in some of Canada’s most significant forests, such as the Boreal Forest, the old-growth rainforests of British Columbia and the Acadian woodlands of Atlantic Canada. He has also been a university lecturer.

The Regional Biodiversity Conservation Forum will be a full-day event on Thursday April 30, 2009 in Burnaby, BC.

~ Further information on the Forum will be **forthcoming in the next few weeks** ~

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and be sure not to miss this event!

Sponsors



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INFORMATION ITEMS

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March 9, 2009

To: Environment and Energy Committee

From: Brie Oishi
Port Coquitlam, BC

Re: **Ban on Wood-burning Fireplaces**

Dear Environment & Energy Committee Members,

Recently my daughter was diagnosed with cancer; the third episode within a decade. She has an active life which includes plenty of fresh air and exercise, wholesome foods and she is not dependent on cigarettes or alcohol. She occupies an apartment in New Westminster and since she is a firm believer in fresh air, a window is always open. During most of my visits during Fall, Winter or Spring, I was aware of a smoke smell which I compared to that of burning wood fireplaces; so during my presence the windows would be closed; because I had become sensitive to wood smoke.

About 7 months ago I decided to do a research as to the harmful effects of fireplace smoke emissions on people's health. Reading the information provided by UBC and BC Lung Association I learned that fireplace smoke does contain more than 100 chemicals and numerous toxic substances which are linked to many diseases; including cancer. Also thickening of the blood vessels that is a risk factor to stroke and heart attacks; it also increases the rate of ear infection and even short term exposure shows increased incidence of cardiac arrhythmia (irregular heart rhythm).

A study on lab animals suggests that prolonged exposure to wood smoke may weaken the immune system; and I ask: is that the reason for the multitude of allergy sufferers and in my daughter's case; is she a cancer victim because of wood smoke exposure for 23 years from neighbouring fireplaces? It is my understanding that these toxic substances do penetrate dwellings even with windows closed and putting people at risk.

Up to now Metro Vancouver has not been successful to convince the public of the harmful effects on people's health from Wood Burning and is still trying to educate them. A stove exchange program is in

force I do understand this to be necessary for individuals who are dependant on wood as their only source of fuel, but in our highly populated Metro Vancouver where weather conditions are not exactly of a 5 star rating, I feel that it would be in the best interest of all living and breathing beings to simply ban the use of Wood Burning.

Some authority will just have to take a stand on this issue, put their foot down so to speak, and in my opinion Metro Vancouver would be the first choice to do that. As I have been in contact with our federal and provincial Government on this issue, their reply was, that it falls under the jurisdiction of municipalities. And upon contacting the Environmental Enhancement Committee of my municipality, Port Coquitlam, I was informed that a regional approach is preferred.

I am aware that toxins from wood burning are only part of the pollution problem, but it is that part which is easily cleared up, it will not have a negative effect on the economy either and Wood Burning Fireplaces can be replaced by a Gas burning one.

Banning Wood Burning Fireplaces should Not be looked upon, as taken away someone's privilege to enjoy a roaring fire; but to be considered as an improvement of our air quality. That is, what all of us are striving to achieve; right?

Will you therefore "Please" join me and seriously consider the positive effect a ban on Wood Burning Fireplaces will have on people's health and no longer will harm any ones child! "A mother's heart thanks you"!

Brie Oishi
Port Coquitlam

004905304

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

FEB 23, 2009

Ms. Lois E. Jackson
Chair
Metro Vancouver Board
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4G8

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Thank you for your letter of November 7, 2008, and enclosures, urging the Government of Canada to seek benign non-toxic alternatives to polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and institute a ban on production and import of products containing PBDE flame retardants.

The Government's Chemicals Management Plan, which was announced in December 2006, identified PBDEs as a high priority. In that regard, the final *Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers Screening Assessment* (www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry/subs_list/FinalAssess.cfm) was published on July 1, 2006, and the *Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers Regulations* on July 9, 2008.

In addition, the Government is undertaking the following actions with respect to PBDEs: (a) a detailed review of newly published science on the bioaccumulation and environmental transformation of decaBDE, to determine whether further controls on this form of PBDE are warranted; (b) a regulation to control PBDEs in domestic and imported manufactured products; (c) a performance agreement with industry to minimize releases to the environment from the use of the DecaBDE commercial mixture in Canadian manufacturing operations; and (d) development of a management strategy for PBDE-containing products at end-of-life. The review of new science will be announced on the CEPA Registry website (www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry/participation) and through publication in the *Canada Gazette* (<http://canadagazette.gc.ca>)



Canada

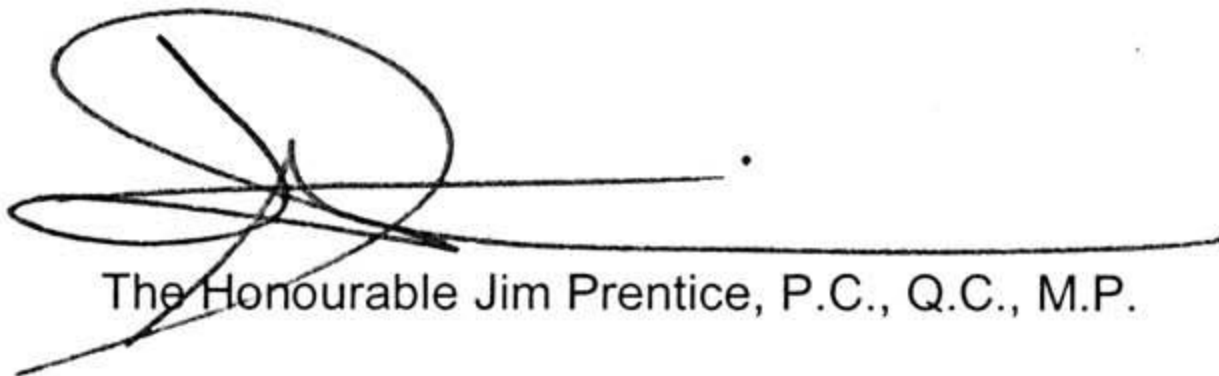
To complement these risk management actions, the Government of Canada is monitoring PBDEs in the Canadian environment, and in landfills and wastewater treatment plants. This monitoring will be used to assess the progress and effectiveness of the risk management actions taken by the Government and to better understand potential environmental exposure from these sources. As well, biomonitoring of PBDEs continues to monitor levels of PBDEs in humans, including vulnerable populations such as pregnant woman and northern communities.

As to your comment on the need to find non-toxic alternatives to PBDEs for use in products, the availability and use of acceptable alternatives is considered as part of the risk management process that Environment Canada undertakes with stakeholders. Moreover, my department is carrying out screening assessments for the brominated flame retardants, tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) and two of its derivative substances (TBBPA allyl ether and ethoxylated TBBPA), as well as hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD). If required, risk management actions will be developed once the conclusions of these assessments are available.

Further information on PBDEs and the Chemicals Management Plan can be found on the Government's Chemicals Substances website at www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/interest-interet/pbde_e.html.

I appreciate your bringing the Metro Vancouver Board's concerns on this matter to my attention, and trust that the information provided is of assistance.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.