



Notes from TAOR Alberta Regional Meeting Sept 21, 2022

9:00-10:00am MDT

In attendance: Pam Warkentin, Erin Curry, Madison Pecoskie, Katelyn Penstone, Kristin Arshinoff, Andrew J. Grant, Curt LaMontagne, Lynn, Janine Legare (Public Health Services: Healthy Physical Environments team), Ron M, Alberta Lung

Updates:

Madison Pecoskie provided an update from Health Canada: Launch of Radon Action Guides (RAGs) for Provinces and for Municipalities, Postcard distribution coming up, a variety of events they'll be attending – upcoming project with AB Lung (Tackle Radon).

Katelyn Penstone provided an additional update from Health Canada: postcards will be sent out again this year, basically the same as last year though they've removed one of the messages and their phone number, hoping to direct people to the HC webpage, where the phone number will be available. Postcards will be sent out mid-October this year. Katelyn also mentioned the RAGs.

Alberta Lung is participating in Tackle Radon this year and has also made videos for municipalities which should be rolling out in November. They're also doing an advertising campaign on buses, to help spread general radon awareness. They're also pushing their library lending program, which they estimate is now in most libraries in Alberta.

Pam provided an **update from Diane Colton**, who is a Radon Awareness Champion. She's currently trying to get radon messaging onto TVs in doctors' offices. She's also been writing for C3 magazine, and planning for her Lung Cancer gala next year.

CARST will be reaching out to MPs across Alberta (and across the country) to raise radon awareness and provide digital radon monitors. CARST is also reaching out on the topic of workplaces this year, asking our contacts if their workplaces have been tested for radon via an online survey. Stakeholders should feel free to share the survey and the outreach material.

Discussion:

Discussion ensued about testing in First Nations communities. A few groups have been working with Alberta First Nations to support them with testing and

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mitigation. Madison will look into which languages BC is having material translated into, so that other groups can work on other languages or also benefit from the resources. Pam mentioned that Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) are also working with resources to support first nations with radon mitigation. TAO can help connect with the local Environmental Health Officer if support is needed.

There was discussion about library programs and a list. Katelyn has a list of all the libraries and will reach share with Pam so that TAO can host an updatable list on their website.

Discussion on School testing – most schools in the province has been tested for radon by Alberta Infrastructure, it isn't clear if the results are publicly available as it would be up to each school district to make it available; Danny DaSilva would be a good contact to ask and could direct to more information.

Discussion about Child Care testing and Bill 209. What could we do to move the bill forward to be proclaimed. There may be a small window before government action needs to halt for election.

Curt asked whether CARST might be able to look into costing for testing commercial buildings – it is difficult for any given commercial operator to provide this information, but it might be helpful to provide an estimate of range. Often the costs are much lower than building managers might expect; having insight into this might help remove one obstacle that keeps workplaces from taking on testing.

Discussion about testing in workplaces, Alberta Infrastructure has tested many provincial buildings, but not all buildings come under their jurisdiction, such as municipal buildings. There is an opportunity to communicate with municipalities to encourage them to be a good example and test their own buildings for radon as well as communicate with Alberta Health Services, as they can and have tested some of their own buildings.

Architects and Engineer Association was also identified as a good organization to reach out to and communicate on radon.

