



## Notes from TAOR Atlantic Regional Meeting Sept 20, 2022

11:30 – 12:40 ADT

**In attendance:** Pam Warkentin, Erin Curry, Roshini Kassie, Leah Hemphill, Joseph Edosa, Glen Strang, Ryan (as of 10:37), Tod Boss (latter half of meeting), Lacey Sutherland (latter half of meeting)

### **Roshini provided some updates from Health Canada:**

Over the past few months Health Canada has been involved in various initiatives:

- the Radon Action Guides (RAGs) at a provincial and municipal level, are almost ready for publication
- HRM radon survey was recently completed. Between 200-300 homes were tested in Halifax, built before and after the building code change. This study will be released soon.
- PEI Public schools will start testing their schools this fall. This program will extend over the next three years.
- In NL, 10 libraries will be equipped with radon monitors to run library lending programs.
- The LA of NS is running an MLA lending program. Roshini believes that just over half of the MLA offices have been equipped with radon monitors, and the program has been very popular both with constituents and the MLAs and their staff.

### **Leah provided some updates from NB Lung:**

- NB Lung is getting more involved in radon, expanding beyond simply selling radon test kits
- Leah is working with Lacey from LA of NS to get a working group together to brainstorm programs for NB.
- A person has signed up to train as a radon mitigator in NL.

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**Joseph provided some updates from the Geological Survey of Nova Scotia:**

- Their group is working to improve the radon potential map, which was developed using a radiological survey combined with a very few data points of radon measurements taken from homes. They're now working to incorporate measurements from approximately 4700 unique locations that have come from Health Canada, LA of NS, etc. The map is ready for public release, but simply needs to get through an approval process. The estimated timeline is for release in October or so.

**Glen Strang provided some updates as a radon professional:**

- Few home inspections are taking place in NS right now, due to bidding wars. The same goes for radon testing, as the hot housing market has reduced negotiations.
- He's planning some online campaigns this fall stressing the importance of radon testing.
- They're currently doing a lot of energy efficiency testing.

Discussion ensued about how to emphasize long-term radon testing, and the importance of considering radon in new construction.

Discussion ensued about how to include radon measurement in energy assessments. Research will be released shortly showing the clear connection between energy efficiency and increased radon levels. Roshini mentioned that she will be meeting with Energy Nova Scotia to talk with them, and Glen said he would look at what he can do from his side.

**Lacey Sutherland provided some updates from the LA of NS:**

- They're doing a lot of radon awareness through social media.
- They launched the first library loan program and have launched the MLA loan program as well. List of MLAs can be found online here: <https://www.lungnspei.ca/mla-radon-detector-loan-program>
- They are planning a Virtual Atlantic Radon Workshop for November 22 – 9am-1pm AST.

**Discussion about the HRM Survey:**





- Homes were tested that were constructed either before or after 2011, to compare before and after the code changes.
- Higher levels were observed in the newer homes – more details will be shared once the report is issued.
- The goal is to share these results with the municipality and the province, to raise awareness about radon and the building code. They're hoping to do some media outreach on this topic.
- Suggestion was made to contact the Building Officials Association to communicate information to them.
- Also connect with Home Builders Association and give them a sneak peak of the information before making it public.

Atlantic Radon Workshop coming up November 2nd from 9 to 1, virtually. Their goal is to launch an Atlantic Radon Working Group, in addition to the group led by Dr. Strang. They'd like to involve more people in PEI and NL. They'd like to highlight some of the work that HC and the LA have been doing, also highlight a patient story, and the work of a thoracic surgeon.

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