



## Notes from TAOR BC Regional Meeting Sept 22, 2022

2:00 – 3:00 Eastern

**In attendance:** Pam Warkentin, Erin Curry, Anne-Marie Nicol, Alan Whitehead, Noah Quastel, Yalda Yavari, Barry, Andrea Schinkel, Mike Adams

**Yalda Yavari provided an update from Health Canada.** The Radon Action Guides should be available next week. Another wave of postcards will be sent out mid-October. In November, radon advertising on public transit will appear – this is in partnership with BC Lung. The posters should appear inside buses, Skytrain stations, and bus shelters. The location of these advertisements will be the Lower Mainland, Northern BC, and the Interior. In the RDCO, Health Canada has provided funding for residents to test their homes, as well as workplace testing with a focus on doctors' offices, dentists' offices, and other medical workplaces. Finally, Health Canada will be piloting a program through the Library Lending programs in BC, Alberta, and Atlantic (in partnership with Radon Environmental and the SK Lung Association) to provide an incentive for patrons to purchase a long-term radon test kit to follow up the measurement taken with the digital device. Health Canada will also be attending various events, including a conference at the Sheraton in Richmond.

**Alan Whitehead. President of Radon Environmental, introduced himself.** They are looking forward to the various 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge programs coming up in BC. Alan has done a variety of presentations through the Fraser valley over the course of the last few months, specifically to Rotary Clubs, etc. He has been very impressed with the turnout and the reception. The First Nations Children's Association has also recently placed a bulk order of test kits, which is promising.

**Anne-Marie provided an update for the BC CDC:** The BC CDC would like to attend the Chilliwack outreach event. They'll be doing radon promotion through their social media channels. The ICRP is having their annual meeting in Vancouver on November 6– Health Canada will be presenting, as is Anne-Marie. TAOR will be presenting in Salt Spring Island, to launch the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge.

Anne-Marie also added that they've been doing work with the Cancer Agency, trying to determine the best place to promote radon action. They've discovered that patients often have to travel some distance to get chemotherapy treatment, meaning

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that this is not an ideal time to promote radon awareness and testing as they're not at home.

**Noah Quastel provided an update from the Healthy Indoor Environments** program at BC Lung. They're working with TAOR on the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge program, in addition to a large-scale testing program in the Fraser valley. The First Nations Health Authority will be testing in parallel. They've also been working to update the Renter's Guide, as they've been alerted to a problem related to rent increases related to capital expenditures. This means that tenants who ask their landlords to mitigate their rented dwelling may face rent increases due to the capital expenditure related to the mitigation system. Noah has also been working on various Energy Efficiency projects.

**Mike Adams provided an update from Interior Health.** They currently have a project going on with Schools and School boards, conducting some radon screening. Their group will also send out some radon messaging, including through their interior communications to their employees.

**Andrea Schinkel from Radon Vancouver,** also a CARST board member, introduced herself. She'll be speaking with Anne-Marie and is happy to get involved in other events.

**Pam provided an update from CARST** – CARST is reaching out to MPs across the country with a letter and a digital radon monitor. This program was prompted by a meeting with MP Dan Alba, who met with us to discuss the various ways that radon could be moved forward at the federal level. The goal of the MP program is simply radon education; the digital radon monitors are very engaging and can be used to launch lending programs for constituents once the MPs have used them. CARST is also working on workplace radon awareness again this year, to follow up on last year's progress.

**C-NRPP** continues to compare digital radon monitors, professional-grade radon monitors, and passive radon detectors. This program has been underway for several years.

**Take Action on Radon (TAOR)** ran the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge in a number of BC communities this year – the reports are available through the TAOR website. The RDCO report was updated to include this year's data. TAOR worked with the RDCO on the school testing program this year; the report has just been published. We'll also be releasing a case study based on the schools testing, which will be released soon.





This year in BC, TAO will be running the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge in Salt Spring Island, Chilliwack and surrounding area, Kimberly, and Keremeos.

**Discussion:**

Anne-Marie asked whether Yalda has a complete list of all the libraries that are offering library lending programs. Yalda responded that she could provide a complete list.

Anne-Marie also mentioned that she would like to revitalize the BC Radon Network, by reaching out to people in various positions in the different regions.

Pam asked about progress in terms of including radon in Energy Efficiency programs. Noah provided an update – they’re looking to set up some meetings.

Pam asked for updates on school testing – are there areas where the schools haven’t tested? Alan suggested following up with various Health Authorities to see if they’ve done what Coastal district did. Anne-Marie mentioned that Emily Peterson did some work on this.

Discussion ensued about Worksafe BC, and the “naturally-occurring” aspect of radon. Noah will be talking with the BC Federation of Labour next month.

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