



Notes from TAOR Manitoba Regional Meeting Sept 21, 2022

1:00 – 1:50 CDT

In attendance: Pam Warkentin, Erin Curry, Sharilyn Knox, Julianne Sanguins, Esther, Cheyenne Richards, Karen, Adam Anderson, Kelley Bush, Jen Kendall, Brian Jaeb

Kelley Bush introduced herself and mentioned that Health Canada doesn't have a permanent staff member in place as a Regional Radiation Specialist in Manitoba. Karen Basset works out of Health Canada's Winnipeg office and joined the meeting to take notes and get involved when possible. Any media requests this November should be directed to Kelley Bush. They are looking forward to releasing the Radon Action Guides (RAGs) in both pdf and online versions very soon (they're aiming to have them out no later than the first week of October).

Adam Anderson (Health Program Analyst for MB Lung) provided an update from MB Lung. The Lungs Matter program is providing mitigation funding for those who are low to moderate income (based on the CRA's grading system) or diagnosed with lung cancer. They have 8 corporate sponsors involved in the program now, in addition to putting the proceeds of their radon test kit sales to the program, and thus far they've given out 4 grants. Grants are assigned via a grant committee who will review the applications through a point grading system based on income and radon level. On another note, Cancer Care in MB have given out 160 radon test kits.

<https://mb.lung.ca/radon/lungs-matter---radon-mitigation-community-grant-program.html>

Sharilyn Knox (Executive Director for Central Plains Cancer Services) serve 70 rural communities with cancer supports. They will be starting a test kit lending program through the library in November. Once the program is launched, they are hoping to expand the program to other libraries. Through their community health program, they have retired nurses who go out to seniors' centers and schools and are often asked to speak about radon.

Jen Kendall (Portage la Prairie City Library) has previously helped with a radon screening program in Alberta and is looking forward to running the program in MB.

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Julianne (from the Manitoba Métis Federation) provided an update on their upcoming radon testing program: they're hoping to roll the project out soon – they've had the Ethics approved through the University of Manitoba, they've prepared their consent forms, and are ready to launch. They'll be installing long-term radon test kits in 100 homes owned by Métis people. They're hoping that their president (of MMF) might connect with Adam Bighill to promote the project, as they'll be recruiting province wide.

Brian Jaeb introduced himself – he and his son are radon measurement and mitigation professionals in the Dauphin and Parkland area. He's seen a very positive impact from the *100 Radon Test Kit Challenge* in communities in his region (RM of Dauphin, Harrison Park), though he sees many people with high levels who are on the fence about mitigation. The *100 Radon Test Kit Challenge* should be taking place in the city of Dauphin this coming winter. Julianne mentioned that the Métis Health Minister lives in the Dauphin region.

Pam provided some updates: the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge has taken place in Dauphin, Harrison Park, and Silver Harbour in past year. You can find those reports online: <https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/100-radon-test-kit-challenge/> This year the RM of Hanover will be participating, as well as East St-Paul, Dauphin and possibly some other municipalities. Take Action on Radon is also working with Julianne and the MMF to support their program.

Cancer Care is providing radon test kits to all their lung cancer patients and have also added information about radon to their website.

Tackle Radon is also continuing this year, officially kicking off during the Labour Day game. Adam Bighill generally gets some media coverage during November.

<https://www.tackleradon.ca/>

The Lung Association and CARST have been writing letters to various ministers with direct "asks" on the topic of radon, depending on their position. They've met with several ministers over the course of the past few months, in addition to the Liberal caucus. Dr. Gerard raises radon every November. They've also met with the NDP critic. CARST met with the labour minister, who seemed very open to taking action wherever possible on the topic of radon.