



Notes from TAOR Ontario Regional Meeting Sept 22, 2022

10:00 - 11:00 Eastern

In attendance: Pam Warkentin, Erin Curry, Phoebe Tung, Sally Radisic, Robert Maccarrone, Martha Robinson, Lynn Murad, Lily Yang, Mandy Serran, Kerrie Blaise (CELA), Elaina MacIntyre, Erin Hayes, Bo Cheyne, Scott Cryer

Phoebe Tung provided an update from Health Canada. Health Canada has some outreach events scheduled – next Thursday they’ll be at Durham school board, speaking to teachers. In early October, they’ll be attending the Ontario Building Officials Association conference. Then in later October they’ll be at the First Nations building conference, and another building conference. Health Canada is also supporting EcoSuperior, as they continue radon programs in Thunder Bay, as well as a program with Ontario Public Health to build a radon repository, similar to what has been done in BC. Finally, they’re working to develop resources for schools with Eco Schools Canada.

Sally is Health Hazard specialist with Hamilton – this year they’re planning to apply an equity lens to their radon work, using Statistics Canada’s most recent data on languages, which include Spanish, Arabic, and Punjabi. They’re planning to translate some of their materials into these languages. They’d like to link directly from their website to TAOR’s website, in the appropriate languages.

Robert Maccarrone is with Canada Radon they have purchase the franchise and are looking to grow.

Bo Cheyne is the Environmental public health specialist in the Guelph region. In previous years they’ve run awareness campaigns which allowed citizens to purchase radon test kits. This year, they’re getting reoriented, and will be running a public awareness campaign.

Martha Robinson from Ottawa provided an update. Last year Ottawa participated in the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge, and this year they’d like to promote the results. This is tricky with the municipal elections, but she’s working on it. The libraries in Ottawa are interested in running library lending programs of electronic radon

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monitors, but Martha would like some additional information on Health Canada's point of view about the electronic radon monitors.

Lily Yang, Occupational Cancer Research Center – RA and study coordinator for radon in workplaces study – they've been delayed over the past few years due to Covid but are hoping to start testing this fall and winter.

Elaina MacIntyre, manager of Toxicology and Exposure Assessment in Public Health Ontario – they're still very busy with covid but looking forward to working on radon again in the coming years, with a heightened awareness of indoor air quality in the public after covid.

Lynn Murad, CCS and TAOR – provided an update on some of the joint radon programs between TAOR and CCS and offered her services to speak about radon in Arabic or help with translation as required.

Kerrie Blaise (CELA) – staff lawyer at CELA, new to the radon stakeholders' group but has experience in radon in mines.

Erin Hayes – Health Promoter at KLF&A Public Health – back to basics this year with a radon awareness campaign. Historically, they've run larger testing programs (such as in daycares, etc.).

Scott Cryer with Pinchin Environmental – just listening in to hear the various plans from across the province. Throughout the fall they'll be doing many presentations to institutional, governmental, and residential groups about radon.

Pam provided an update from TAOR – we're currently wrapping up last year's communities testing program and helping this year's communities to prepare for this year's campaign. Reports are being issued for last year's communities (available on the TAOR website) – Ottawa, Mallorytown, Woodstock First Nation and Clarence-Rockland participated last year. We also ran a testing program within the Arabic community in Waterloo. We translated all our 100 RTK materials into Arabic and worked with a local liaison. This year we'll be running the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge in Cavan-Monaghan and the Chapleau Cree First Nation and repeating the program in Woodstock First Nation.

<https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/resources-for-stakeholders/>

Pam also provided an update from CARST – this fall CARST will be sending letters and digital radon monitors to all MPs in Canada. C-NRPP has been doing research to





test the digital radon monitors and has identified two types of monitors that do not work. Health Canada has issued consumer protection recalls about these two devices.

We have put the recall warning on our "Order a Test Kit Page" <https://takeactiononradon.ca/test-for-radon/radon-test-kits/>

Discussion:

Martha asked a question about radon monitor lending programs. Phoebe provided some information from Health Canada – their recommendation is that the digital monitor be used as a screening tool, to be followed up with a long-term radon test using a passive radon test kit. They're planning a follow-up survey with some libraries in Windsor Essex who've been running loan programs for a while, to see what percentage of loan program participants execute a long-term follow-up test. Pam shared a link to the library lending program guidance documents, which include guidelines for quality checks, etc.

<https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/lending-programs/>

Discussion ensued about testing in rental units, and what can be done to encourage landlords take action to mitigate their lodgings.

Pam shared some resources developed by CARST to help provide education: <https://carst.ca/rentals>

BC Lung <https://bclung.ca/programs-initiatives/healthy-indoor-environments-program/current-radon-projects>

Elaina MacIntyre shared a link. For landlord-tenant, this may be of interest: <https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onltb/doc/2017/2017canlii60362/2017canlii60362.html?searchUrlHash=AAAAAQAFcmFkb24AAAAAAQ&resultIndex=1>

"It is ordered that ... The Landlord shall inspect and effect repairs to the crawlspace such that this area is in a good state of repair and does not permit Radon gases to permeate the rental unit;"

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