

Take Action on Radon – National Stakeholder Meeting

WELCOME

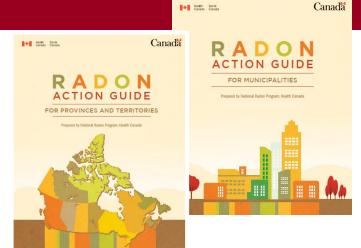
September 15th, 2022





HEALTH CANADA'S 2022-23 PRIORITIES

Radon Action Guides (RAGs) Evidence-based, developed by legal and environmental health expert Describe the regulatory and policy actions that provinces, territories, and municipalities in Canada can take



Updating Guidance and Standards based on most current research

- CGSB Standards for radon control measures in buildings.
- Guide for radon measurement in homes

Research

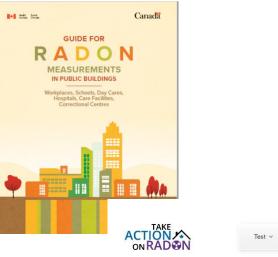
- Study of the seasonal variation of radon levels in homes
- Evaluation of the performance of continuous radon monitors available to the public
- Investigate passive radon stack, and energy retrofits on radon ingress



Additional Updates:

Radon Measurement Guide for Public was released in August 2022

 Library Loan Resources developed and available through the TAOR website: <u>https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/lending-programs/</u>



HOME ABOUT NEWS CONTACT FRANÇAIS 🛉 🎔

Radon Monitor Lending Programs

Radon Monitor Lending Programs are helping to educate Canadians and increase their understanding of the actions they can take to reduce their risk. Libraries, in particular, have recognized this as a great opportunity to add a new resource to their lending library, however other organizations such as community groups, provincial or federal legislatures, municipalities may also be well set up to launch a program.

There are a few things for lending programs to keep in mind:

- Take Action on Radon has resources to help you with setting up a Radon Monitor Lending program, we can support you with printable materials as well as connect you with an individual to help you walk through the process.
- Organizations starting lending programs, may also want to start by sharing basic radon information to their community. Take Action on Radon has some general awareness material that we can email or mail to you for distribution.
- > Health Canada recommends that radon monitor lending



Canadian Société Cancer canadienne Society du cancer



Organizations interested in setting up lending programs can <u>REGISTER HERE</u> to receive supporting document including a guidance document and supporting materials as well as connect with an individual to support you in getting started.

REGISTER HERE





PRODUCT RECALL:

We recommend that you not sell these devices and advise homeowners that they do not accurately measure radon levels.



https://twitter.com/GovCanHealth/status/15676 48984675622913



Consumer product advisory

Health Canada warns that Elifecity Portable Radon Meter may post a health and safety risk due to undetected high radon levels

Brand(s)

Last updated: 2022-09-07

Summary

Product: Elifecity Portable Radon Meter

Issue: Consumer products - Chemical hazard

What to do: Immediately stop using the product and dispose of it in accordance with the applicable transportation and waste requirements for electronic products.



Affected products

This alert involved the following product:

Elifecity Portable Radon Meter

Français

Q



PRODUCT RECALL: - AIR STEWARD

We recommend that you not sell these devices and advise homeowners that they do not accurately measure radon levels.

https://recalls-rappels.canada.ca/en/alert-recall/airsteward-portable-radon-monitor-recalled-due-inaccurateradon-detection



Air Steward Portable Radon Monitor recalled due to Inaccurate Radon Detection

Last updated: 2022-09-13

Summary

Product: Air Steward Portable Radon Monitor Issue: Consumer products - Chemical hazard What to do: Immediately stop using the recalled radon monitoring device.



Affected products

This recall involves Air Steward Portable Radon Monitor. The monitor is a black device with the text "Radon Monitor" below the LED screen. The LED screen displays "Coefficient of injury".



AND AL DE COMPETENCE SUR LE RADON PROFICIENCE PROFILIENTE

Current Research:

- working with COIRA on International Chamber InterComparison Project – *likely to be published end of this year*
- Placement Location Research working on publishing
- Updating our list of devices

Continuing to provide resources to assist our professionals.











HELPING CANADIANS REDUCE RADON RISI

CARSTs Initiatives:

- Reaching out to MPs with digital radon monitors
- Applying for RAM Proclamations to various cities and provinces
- Workplace Survey, we are drafting an email on testing in workplaces and sending a survey out to our contacts, to see how many workplaces have tested for radon. *Currently working with CRPA to reach out to their members.*



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- Applying for RAM Proclamations









HELPING CANADIANS REDUCE RADON RIS

C-NRPP Radon Measurement and Mitigation Course in Kelowna September 19-24









Canadian Radiation Protection Association Association Canadienne de Radioprotection



JOIN THE CRPA CONFERENCE - May 15-18, 2023 – register online: https://crpa-acrp.com/2023/

Annual Conference 2023

Canadian Radiation Protection Association

May 15 - 18, 2023

Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites. HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

CRPA – CARST Working Group

- discussion with members and survey for their workplace testing for radon
- reaching out to schools on testing for radon







New Construction:



The First Nations National Building Officers Association (**FNNBOA**) have a pilot project to address radon mitigation in new construction.

FNNBOA will review your construction blueprints to ensure radon reduction system are in place for the construction of residential buildings. FNNBOA has retained experts in radon gas mitigation to review blueprints and provide recommendations on radon gas mitigation and they can also review your blueprints to ensure it reflects the current building code and building standards.

Call (613) 236-2040 or email us at info@fnnboa.ca

or John Kiedrowski, the project manager at 613 851 2056 or at John@jkks.ca.





Mitigation Grants/Financial Supports

https://takeactiononradon.ca/protect/reducing-radon/

Regional District of Central Okanagan

•The grant provides a reimbursement of up to 80% of the mitigation cost if you have mitigated your home using a <u>C-NRPP</u> <u>professional</u>. - Closed due to funds used up.

Tarion Home Warranty in Ontario

•Covers the cost of radon mitigation in new homes in Ontario that are 7 years old or less

Ontario Renovates:

•Differs per region. Check with your region.

Various Quebec Municipalities – <u>Vaudreuil-</u> <u>Dorion</u> and <u>Victoriaville Habitation Durable</u> •Provide \$500 grant for residents in their environmental grant programs

The Lung Association, Manitoba

•Provides \$1500 grant for Manitoba homeowners who are low income or who have lung cancer.

Manitoba Hydro

•Provide an loan for radon mitigation; Manitoba homeowners can pay off the loan on their hydro bill

Lung Saskatchewan's Caring Breaths Financial Assistance program

•Provides \$1000 reimbursement for Saskatchewan homeowners who have mitigated their home

Saskatchewan Home Renovation Grant

•2 year tax rebate available until December 2022 – includes radon mitigation







Response to Questions from the meeting:

- RAGS will be out by the end of September
- RAM Messaging anticipated from the federal Health Minister, waiting for confirmation
- Postcard mailouts will happen again this year in mid-October to final group of FSAs representing communities which tested between 1 and 5% of homes above guideline (next year Postcards will be repeat FSAs from first year.







Radon Across the Country:







Atlantic Region Updates:

- HRM Radon Survey results being process
- Testing continuous monitors which have been part of library lending program for years.
- Lung Association of NS and PEI planning a Radon Workshop for November
- PEI is retesting schools
- Newfoundland and Labrador are starting lending library programs
- NS had a successful launch to their MLA lending programs Question: is there going to be any legislation change with respect to radon in Newfoundland – Answer – Building Code changes coming at a municipal level.









Quebec Updates:

- Quebec building code was updated recently and applies radon prevention across the province
- QC lung is continuing their Municipalities Against Radon Program; next year the host town will be Laval, which is the largest city yet
- Pilot program testing radon exposure in workplaces
- Another pilot project checking radon levels in ex-smokers' homes in Lanaudière region







Ontario Updates:

- Health Canada is presenting to OBOA in Hamilton on radon control options
- Health Canada is attending First Nations Housing Conference
- Health Canada is attending Housing Not for Profit Conference
- Supporting ECO Schools Canada program educating schools on radon; 31 schools say that they have completed the radon portion of the program -

https://ecoschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Radon-Reduce-your-Exposure.pdf

- ECO Superior is continuing to do radon outreach in Thunder Bay
- Ontario Health is restarting their Workplace testing program (email: <u>lily.yang@ontariohealth.ca</u> for updates:

https://www.occupationalcancer.ca/2018/radon-survey_of_workplaces-in-on



Manitoba Updates:

- Currently working to hire a Radiation Specialist for Manitoba/Sask region; expect to have a new rep by end of September
- Lung Association of Manitoba has been meeting with several MLAs in Manitoba including the Education Minister and Public Health officials
- LA of MB launched their Lungs Matter Program a radon mitigation grant program <u>https://mb.lung.ca/radon/lungs-matter---radon-mitigation-community-grant-</u> <u>program.html</u>
- Cancer Care Manitoba have put radon information on their website and working to provide free radon tests to all lung cancer patients Canadian Société





Saskatchewan Updates:

- Currently working to hire a Radiation Specialist for Manitoba/Sask region; expect to have a new rep by end of September
- Tackle Radon is live, visit TackleRadon.ca, if there are any questions, reach out to your local lung health charity across BC, AB, SK, or MB (in fact, I'm sure if my counterparts in those provinces are at the meeting, one of them could briefly speak to the campaign)
- We hosted a presentation of our national radon survey results on August 17th, thank you to all who attended. If you missed it and are interested in accessing the recording for this presentation or have any questions please reach out to

Bethany.Verma@lungsask.ca







Alberta Updates:

- Health Canada is attending the Alberta Municipalities conference and will promote the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge program and the Health Canada's Radon Action Guides (RAGs)
 - Also attending:
 - Canadian Public Health Inspector Conference
 - Enhancing First Nations Housing Workshop
- Alberta Lung also has a new radon person Jamie Happy Welcome Jamie!







BC Updates:

- BC Lung working to provide advertising in transit areas
- Also check out great resources on their website through their Healthy Indoor Environment program, Noah Quastel has made a lot available: <u>https://bclung.ca/programs-initiatives/healthy-indoor-environments-program</u>
- RDCO is working to provide test ktis to the community again this year focussing on residential, tenants, landlords and workplaces
- SFU has a research project providing test kits through BC Cancer Agency which has been a great way to engage with cancer specialists







Territory Updates: Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

- Plans are underway but no specifics available for these areas.



Take Action on Radon – National Initiatives



Canadian Cancer Society: Smoker's Helpline and Cancer Information Line

Take Action on Radon is offering FREE radon tests for any client who calls the Smoker's Helpline or Cancer Information Line.



REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF A LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canada. It is the leading cause of death from cancer for both men and women in Canada.¹

Smokers have the highest risk of getting lung cancer and radon increases that risk. There are other factors that also increase lung cancer risk such as outdoor air pollution, physical inactivity and poor nutrition, specifically with a lack of fruit and vegetable consumption. While you should consider improving all these risk factors, the combination of radon and smoking is particularly dangerous.



RADON + SMOKING = DANGEROUS COMBINATION

WHAT

CAN YOU

DO?

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QUIT OR REDUCE TOBACCO Tobacco use is the #1 preventable risk factor in getting lung cancer

TEST AND REDUCE RADON After tobacco, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer.

STEPS TO QUIT SMOKING Make a <u>cuit plan</u> Get guidance from a Quit Coach: Call 1-866-366-3667 Text 'iQuit' to 123456 Chat go to <u>smokershelpline.ca</u> Investigate <u>Quit aids</u> with a health professional Select a quit date Inform family and friends

O Think about situations that you connect with smoking such as drinking coffee, driving, or having alcohol and COME up with temporary alternatives such as replacing coffee with juice, foregoing alcohol for a little while, etc.



 2 EVALUATE Radon levels (Guideline is 200 Bq/mł)
 3 DETERMINE necessary actions and timeline
 4 REDUCE - find a mitigation professional

SPREAD RADON AWARENESS - Tell Others To learn more go to <u>takeactiononradon ca</u>





White Ribbon Campaign



Free tests for Lung Cancer Patients and Families

- Piloted project with BC Cancer Agency
- Also working with Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Information and Prevention Specialists
- Presenting to Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology this November
- Open to anyone across Canada







Lunch and Learn – Workplace wellness concept



- Online presentation on radon for staff lunch and learn session
- Providing opportunity to purchase test kits



CCS Lodge Testing and 1 pager on RADON

- Supporting the Cancer Lodges across Canada test their facilities for radon
- Provided a 1pager of information for their families on radon
- Opportunity to order a free radon test kit for the families



Canadian Société Cancer canadienne Society du cancer

Why you should pay attention to radon levels in your home

Reduce your risk of lung cancer

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canada. Lung cancer is serious and has a significant burden on the health of people in Canada.

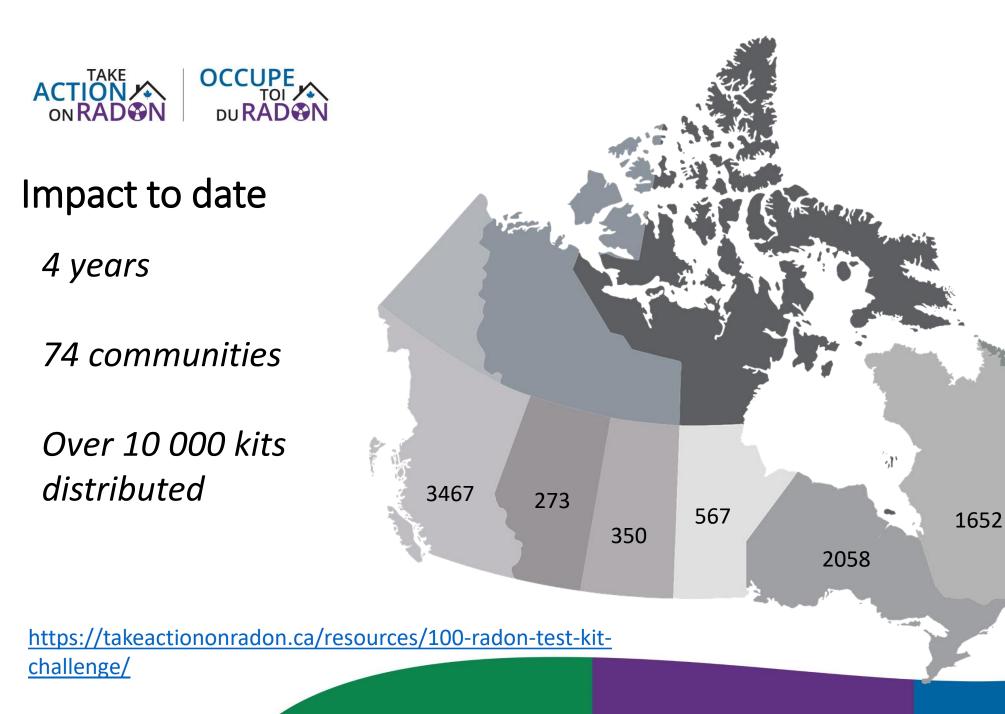
People who are exposed to elevated radon over a duration of time increase their risk of getting lung cancer. Testing and reducing radon levels early in life will reduce this risk.



Radon gas can be found in buildings all across Canada. Test and reduce your home radon level and protect your family from this risk.

Learn more at takeactiononradon ca.

Testing your home for Radon is easy. Every home regardless of age or area of the country should test for radon It's as easy as 1,2,3: Steps to take action on radon 2 Take Action O Test Test for radon 2 Evaluate radon levels (guideline is 200 Bq/m²) B Determine necessary actions and timeline B Breathe 4 Find a certified mitigation professional Lasy 6 Spread radon awareness – tell others Canadian Society Capoer canadianas Society du cancer LODGES





2018-19

Winnipeg, MB

Golden, BC

Souris, MB

Baden, ON

Wabana, NL



100 trousses de dépistage de rad

2019 - 2020 (15)

Halifax, NS Sherbrooke, QC Brandon, MB Dauphin, MB Greater Madawaska Region, ON Summerland, BC Spruce Grove, AB Valemount, BC Coquitlam, BC Abbotsford, BC Port Colborne, ON McBride, BC Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC Pembroke, ON Harrison Park, MB North Grenville, ON

2020 - 2021 (20)

Sicamous, BC Peachland. BC West Bank First Nation, BC West Kelowna, BC Kelowna, BC Vernon, BC Sundre, AB Black Diamond, AB Eston, SK Silver Harbour, MB Lakeshore, MB Chatham-Kent, ON Leeds & Thousand Islands, ON Carleton-sur-mer, QC Saint-Joseph du-Lac, QC Lorraine, QC Candiac, QC Madawaska, NB Mount Pearl, NL Stephenville, NL

<u>2021 – 2022</u> (30)

Barriere, BC Peachland, BC West Bank First Nation, BC West Kelowna, BC Kelowna, BC Vavenby, BC Clearwater, BC Blue River, BC Grand Forks, BC Revelstoke, BC Eatonia, SK Weyburn, SK Clarence-Rockland, ON Ottawa, ON Waterloo, ON Mallorytown, ON Candiac, QC Percé, QC Deux-Montagnes, QC Saint-Augustin-des-Desmaures, QC Grand Falls, NB Woodstock First Nation, NB North Shore Micmac Council, NB Gander, NL Harbour Breton, NL Fogo Island, NL Treaty 3 Communities, ON

100 Test Kit Challenge communities, by year

https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/10 challenge/

2022 – Western Canada

Results Summary

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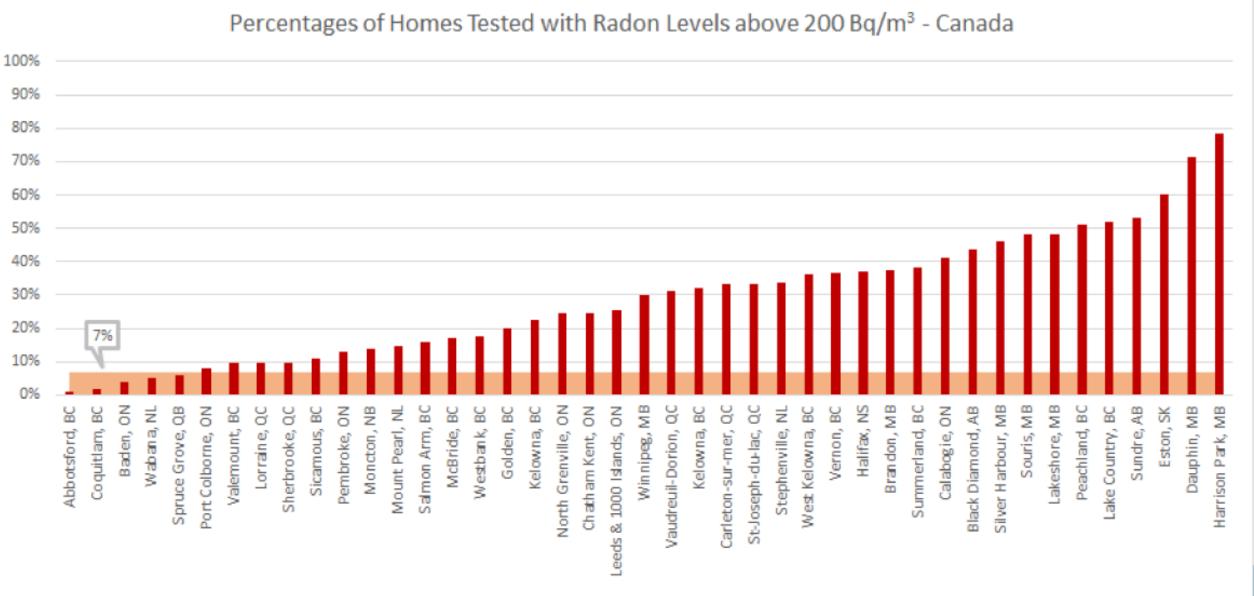
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Community	# of homes tested	% of homes above 200 Bq/m ³	Link
City of Kelowna, BC — updated with 2021 & 2022	627	22%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Kelowna-BC- Community-Radon-Report-Sept-2022.pdf
West Kelowna, BC - updated with 2021 & 2022	245	38%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/West-Kelowna- BC-Community-Report-Sept-2022-1.pdf
Lake Country, BC - updated with 2021 & 2022	257	51%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Lake-Country-BC- Community-Radon-Report-Sept-2022.pdf
Peachland, BC - updated with 2020 & 2021	77	41%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Peachland-BC- Community-Radon-Report-Sept-2022.pdf
Barrier, BC	40	63%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Barrier-BC- Community-Report-2022.pdf
Clearwater and Surrounding area including: Vavenby and Blue River, BC	54	57%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Clearwater-and- surrounding-area-BC-Community-Report-2022.pdf
Grand Forks, BC	35	48%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Grand- Forks-BC-Community-Report-June-2022-final.pdf
Revelstoke, BC	120	46%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp- content/uploads/2022/07/Revelstoke-BC-Community-Report-July- 2022.pdf
Eatonia, SK	52	52%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Eatonia- SK-Community-Report-June-2022.pdf
Weyburn, SK	117	55%	

2021 – Eastern Canada Results Summary

Community	# of homes tested	% of homes above 200 Bq/m ³	Link
Clarence- Rockland, ON	160	21%	- Coming soon
Ottawa, ON	335	18%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Ottawa-ON- Community-Report-July-2022.pdf
Waterloo, ON	59	2%	- Not published
Mallorytown, ON	96	31%	- Coming soon
Candiac, QC	272	9%	
Deux-Montagnes, QC	In process		
Saint-Augustin-des- Desmaures, QC	189	17%	<u>https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Saint-Augustine-</u> <u>des-Desmaures-QC-Community-Report-June-2022.pdf</u>
Grand Falls, NB	23	49%	
Woodstock FN, NB	10	80%	- Not public; planning to repeat in 2022
Fogo Island, NL	40	8%	
Harbour Breton, NL	51	0%	https://takeactiononradon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Harbour-Breton- NL-Community-Report-July-2022.pdf
Gander, NL	19	16%	



Health Canada's Cross-Country Survey National Average 2009 - 2011







<u>2022 – 2023</u>

KimberleyBCChilliwackBCSalt Spring IslandBCKeremeosBC

Innisfail, AB

Whitecap Dakota First Nation, SK Estevan, SK Edenwold,SK

Mitchell MB East St. Paul, MB Dauphin MB ...waiting for confirmation in 2 more Manitoba communities Chapleau Cree First Nation ON Cavan Monaghan ON

Beloeil QC Prévost QC Cantley QC Gaspé QC

...waiting for confirmation of one more Atlantic community

Repeating in:

Kelowna, BC Woodstock First Nation, NB North Shore Micmac District Council, NB

100 Test Kit Challenge communities, by year





<u>Regional Air Quality program</u> offered free radon screening to all Central Okanagan Schools (public and independent) during the winter 2020 and 2021,

School administrators were given an opportunity to learn about radon, and why it should be a priority of school administrators to protect their staff and students from high levels.

Next steps:

- Reviewing reports with schools before making their results public
- Schools who need additional tests can develop plans for future testing
- Schools which need mitigation are developing plans for next steps of testing and developing reduction plans as needed



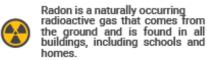
55 SCHOOLS

began testing for radon gas during the winters of 2020 and 2021. This included 10 Independent and 45 Public Schools.

This radon screening program is the first step towards fully testing the schools for radon to protect all occupants.

To be Fully Tested, a school must measure radon in every ground-contact room that is occupied at least 4 hours per day or more.

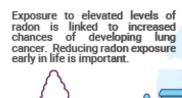
Screened schools are those that have tested some, but not all ground-contact, occupied rooms.



9% Fully Tested and below 200 Bg/m^a

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7% Screened with at least one room above 200 Bo/m





84%

Screened

and below

200 Bg/m²

Radon enters a building through contact with the ground and can build up to





Radon Reduction Sweepstakes – 2022/2023

2 prizes of \$500 per region (8 regions across Canada)

Anyone who has reduced their radon using a C-NPRP professional can apply.

Winners from the 2021/2022 will be announced in October.

https://takeactiononradon.ca/radon-reduction-sweepstakes/









Continuing to reach out and provide supports to organizations to provide Radon Mitigation Grant Programs

- RDCO (Central Okanagan)
- Manitoba Lung
- And one more yet to be announced.



Prevention Starts at Home









RADON ACTION MONTH plan

- Social media through CCS channels
- Social media through our channels
- Media push in 20 communities where we are running 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge
- Target radio
- Conducting Webinars with CANO; 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge Communities; local community groups
- Working towards releasing a research project from 100 Radon Test Kit challenge





Take the SLIDO POLL – Open to September 22

https://app.sli.do/event/qi B8tLJhV2ZRhUYFU7dea9





RESOURCES:







Order online: https://form.jotform.com/91975565858277



1. Test

reverse)

2. Assess

Postcard (French on

3. Take Action





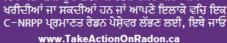


Multiple Languages

Bookmarks and postcards in Tagalog, Punjabi, Italian and Chinese!

We are also working with some communities to translate into some First Nation Languages.



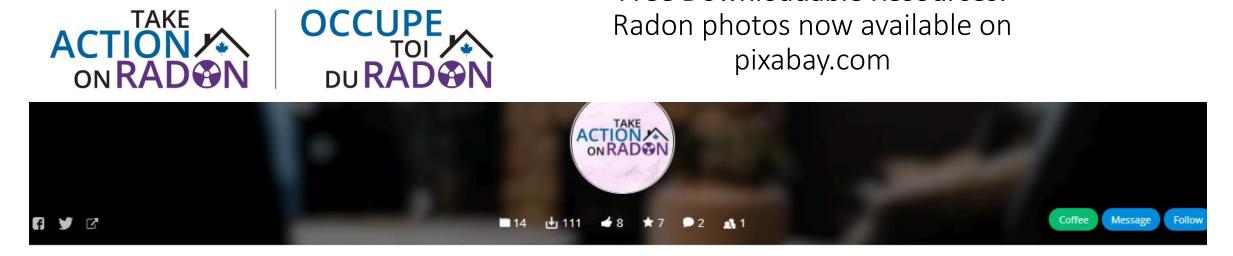




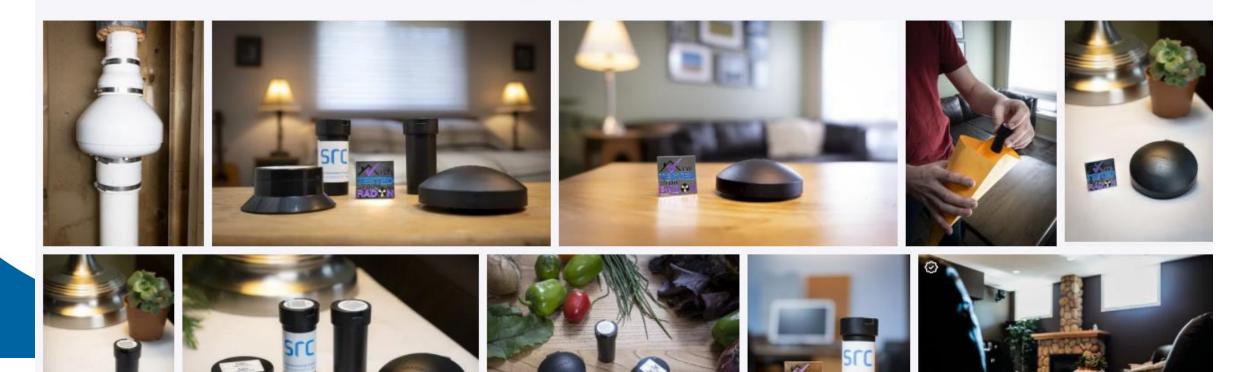




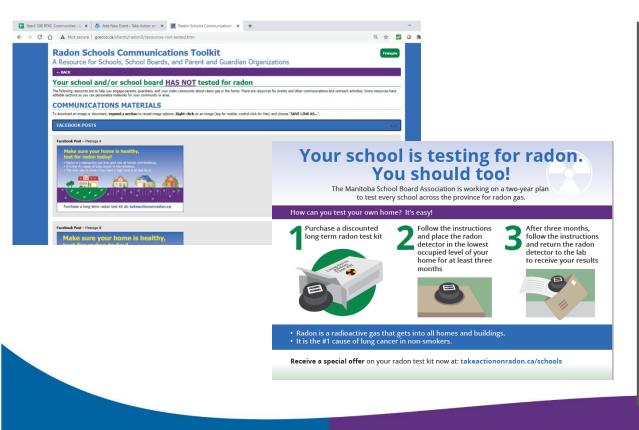
Free Downloadable Resources: Radon photos now available on pixabay.com



ABOUT ME POPULAR LATEST



School Resources



Check out the <u>www.takeactiononradon.ca</u> for Scout Environmental' s School Resources.

- Social media posts for schools who have tested
- Sample write ups for newsletters
- Sample letters for schools who are testing







We have scheduled the regional workshops for the following times/dates (Click to download calendar invite):

- <u>Atlantic Region: Tuesday, September 20 11:30 ADT (noon NDT)</u>
- Quebec Region: Tuesday, September 20 1pm EDT
- Alberta Region: Wednesday, September 21, 10am MDT
- Manitoba Region: Wednesday, September 21 1pm CDT
- Ontario Region: Thursday, September 22, 10 am EDT
- BC, Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Region: Thursday, September 22 11am PDT
- Saskatchewan Region: Thursday, September 19 at 11am CST (Sask time) email Bethany Verma - <u>bethany.verma@lungsask.ca</u> for login details