

[View this email in your browser](#)



Share



Tweet



Share



Forward

Annual Air Quality Management Partnerships Newsletter

The Annual Air Quality Management Partnerships Newsletter will focus on highlighting the recent success and accomplishments of organizations that contribute to Air Quality Management across Alberta. The first issue will focus on updates provided by several Airsheds. There are ten airsheds across the province that operate over 70 monitoring stations. These stations are in compliance with Provincial and Federal air monitoring standards and provide data that contribute to the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).

Similar to CASA, each Airshed is governed by a multi-stakeholder consensus-based board of directors. In addition to reporting and responding on regional air matters, the Airsheds participate in community and education initiatives across the province.

In this issue there are updates from:

- Alberta Capital Airshed
- West Central Airshed Society

- Calgary Region Airshed Zone
 - Fort Air Partnership
-



Alberta Capital Airshed Update

The Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA) is located in the Edmonton region and has the primary role of monitoring air quality and sharing data and supplementary information with the public.

Clean Air Forum



The second annual 2019 Clean Air Forum, hosted by the ACA was held on June 20 at the Strathcona Community Centre. Keeping strongly to issues that are currently being faced by Albertans, the focus this year was wildfires. Topics included wildfire and local smoke issues, impact on human health, and discussions around what can be done to raise awareness when dealing with smoke.

The day-long forum featured multiple presenters, panelists, and opportunities for table discussions. One of these table discussions included the opportunity to develop a pitch on the best way to build community resiliency against wildfire smoke, with input from a panel of experts.



For more information on the Clean Air Forum, speakers, or opportunities to attend, please visit the [Alberta Capital Airshed Website](#).

[Innovative Monitoring Committee](#)

The ACA has launched an Innovative Monitoring Committee (IMC) for the purpose of sharing information on smaller sensors and emerging technologies to monitor air quality. Representatives on this committee include members from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Alberta Environment and Parks, the University of Alberta, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, and the City of Edmonton.

More information on the IMC and the work they are completing will be available on the new [Alberta Capital Airshed website](#).

[Monitoring Air Quality in Small Communities and Neighbourhoods](#)

Sensors have been deployed by the ACA across small communities and neighborhoods in the Airshed to better understand the air quality in these areas. The sensors will be monitoring levels of PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) through the communities of Edmonton (Calder, Riverdale, Gold Bar, Century Park, Woodcroft), South Cooking Lake, Sherwood Park, St. Albert, Ardrossan, and Leduc. More

communities are expected to be added to the monitoring list later in the year.

Education Expansion

Partnering with Inside Education and Health Canada, the ACA has been expanding their reach into schools to provide further education on air quality to students. Programs range from Weather and Air Quality interactive presentations to C.A.R.S. (Clean Air Response Schools) which includes education, student use of citizen science monitors, and encouragement to affect change for better air quality in their school environments.



West Central Airshed Society Update

The [West Central Airshed Society](#) (WCAS) is Alberta's first Airshed organization and has been active since 1995. Some of the areas WCAS monitors have been in place for many years, but the communities and emissions sources have largely changed over time. To ensure they are receiving the most relevant data, WCAS is undertaking an extensive monitoring review in 2019 to bring forth recommendations on the best locations for monitoring to occur.

In 2018 WCAS was one of the airsheds to expand their boundaries after consulting with Alberta Environment and Parks. The Whitecourt area is now considered to be part of the WCAS, and monitoring of the area is scheduled to begin this year.



Calgary Region Airshed Zone Update

Submitted by Tanya Carlson, CRAZ Engagement Program Manager

The Calgary Region Airshed Zone (CRAZ) region overall enjoys a very high level of air quality; demonstrated by over seven years of uninterrupted baseline data gathered by the CRAZ passive monitoring program. The passive monitoring program provided an average air quality value for each month. To identify potential future changes in air quality while our region continues to develop, CRAZ will continue its monitoring efforts by shifting to a six-month regional ambient monitoring program. Data will be compared to the existing historical data to assess whether there are measurable differences in the air quality for NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) and SO₂ (sulfur dioxide).

In addition to conducting continuous monitoring, CRAZ will be offering community engagement and education programs. These programs will inform the public about what the data means, why do we care, what air quality means to human health, explanation of the AQHI and what actions we can do to care for our air.

CRAZ is excited to announce on October 1, 2018, we began deploying a Portable Air Monitoring Laboratory (PAML) in communities within the CRAZ region to conduct continuous ambient air quality monitoring. An objective of CRAZ is to monitor air quality in the areas that have little or no previous monitoring and support CRAZ's long-term strategy for ambient air quality monitoring. The PAML will remain at each location for a six-month period and will gather high-quality data enabling it to produce a snapshot of air quality, as well as an AQHI for the location. Continuous monitoring is the preferred method of monitoring by Airshed Zones, and Alberta Environment and Parks.

CRAZ is excited to move into this new phase of the monitoring program and will continue to connect with its stakeholders on science-based findings in an objective manner.



Fort Air Partnership Update

Fort Air Partnership's portable air monitoring station was added to the monitoring network in 2018. A Portable Site Selection Process is used to rank prospective sites and choose locations.

The portable station was sited in the Town of Bon Accord from May of 2018 to February of this year. Bon Accord was selected as the first site for the new portable station since there had not been any continuous air monitoring done in the community prior to this project. Bon Accord municipal officials also communicated an interest in learning more about local air quality. A summary report on air monitoring data collected during the nine-month project will be prepared and made public.

The Village of Chipman was selected as the next location for the portable station because of several key factors, including being a populated area currently



underserved by air monitoring. It began operating there in mid-May.

Questions? Contact CASA at info@awc-casa.ca.



Subscribe!

Copyright © 2019 AWC & CASA, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).