The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, and provide a quick update for board members and other interested groups. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think. Email your feedback to info@awc-

casa.ca. Follow us on X, LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We look forward to hearing from you.

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- **Whiffs and Puffs:** First air capture test centre to open in Innisfail

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Director feature

CASA welcomes a new president

CASA is pleased to announce that Patrick McDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister of Air, Climate, and Clean Technology with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), has accepted the role of president.

Patrick holds a bachelor of chemical engineering and brings extensive expertise in energy, climate change, and industrial emissions policy. He has led strategic initiatives across both public and private sectors in Alberta, including roles with

EPA, the Alberta Energy Regulator, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. He is passionate about collaborative solutions that balance environmental stewardship with economic growth.

He is based out of Red Deer, where he'll work closely with our teams to advance innovative approaches to improve air quality for Albertans.

CASA looks forward to his leadership in driving our mission forward.

The Zephyr

Work progresses on the dust management guide

In 2023, the Best Practices Guide for Dust Management in Alberta Project Team was formed to develop a best practices guide for dust management in the province. The project was on hold in 2024 while the team secured funding to hire a consultant to complete some of the project tasks.

The guide will be based on the latest and best understanding of dust management options for major dust and source types found in Alberta. The intent is that the guide be user-friendly, useful to stakeholders, and include references that allow users to easily access additional information on specific best practices. The guide is also hoped to improve ambient air quality in Alberta with associated human health and environmental protection benefits.

In early 2025, the team reconfirmed their membership and resumed meeting, which included a kick-off with the consultant. In the spring and summer, the consultant and the project team completed a literature and jurisdictional review, and conducted two surveys and two focus groups to identify dust issues and best management practices. The information was compiled into a draft Best Practices Guide which was presented and validated at a workshop in late June. The consultant and the project team are now incorporating feedback from the workshop into an updated draft guide. They hope to complete the guide in the fall 2025, after which the project team will write their final report.

The team expects to complete their work by April 2026.

Work progresses on vehicle emissions control system tampering and reliability

CASA's recently completed ROVER III project collected information from the in-use on-road vehicle fleet in Alberta and found a significant proportion of heavy-duty diesel vehicles measured during the study were emitting 10 or more times the expected level of emissions based on vehicle model year.

The ROVER III work did not include vehicle inspections, and therefore the results of the project cannot explain the causes for these excess emissions. The assumption made in ROVER III was that those vehicles have emission control systems that have either been tampered or are malfunctioning as these findings align with other studies on transportation emissions showing the same levels of exceedance. There is a need for actions and initiatives to address these excess emissions, and a recommendation was made by the ROVER III team for a new project to examine this area further. The recommendation was approved, and a working group was established at the September 2024 board meeting. Terms of reference for the project were approved by the board in April 2025, and the project team began work this past July.

The team has begun compiling available information on emission control systems, motivations and rates of tampering in Alberta, and the reliability of emission control systems in Alberta's climate. Over the coming months they will identify data gaps and work on addressing them so the information can be used to support development of actions or programs to reduce emissions from the transportation sector in Alberta.

Board members participate in a project identification exercise

At their September meeting, board members took part in an exercise to identify new potential projects CASA could pursue in the coming months.

During the exercise, they discussed current trends and patterns in air quality management, and how this could influence the type of work CASA pursues. The group established a set of criteria to guide undertaking new initiatives. Specifically, board members broke out into smaller groups to discuss and prioritize potential project ideas the organization could pursue in the coming months.

Next steps involve assembling groups to further examine and scope the project ideas that were selected. For more information about this important exercise, please contact CASA staff.

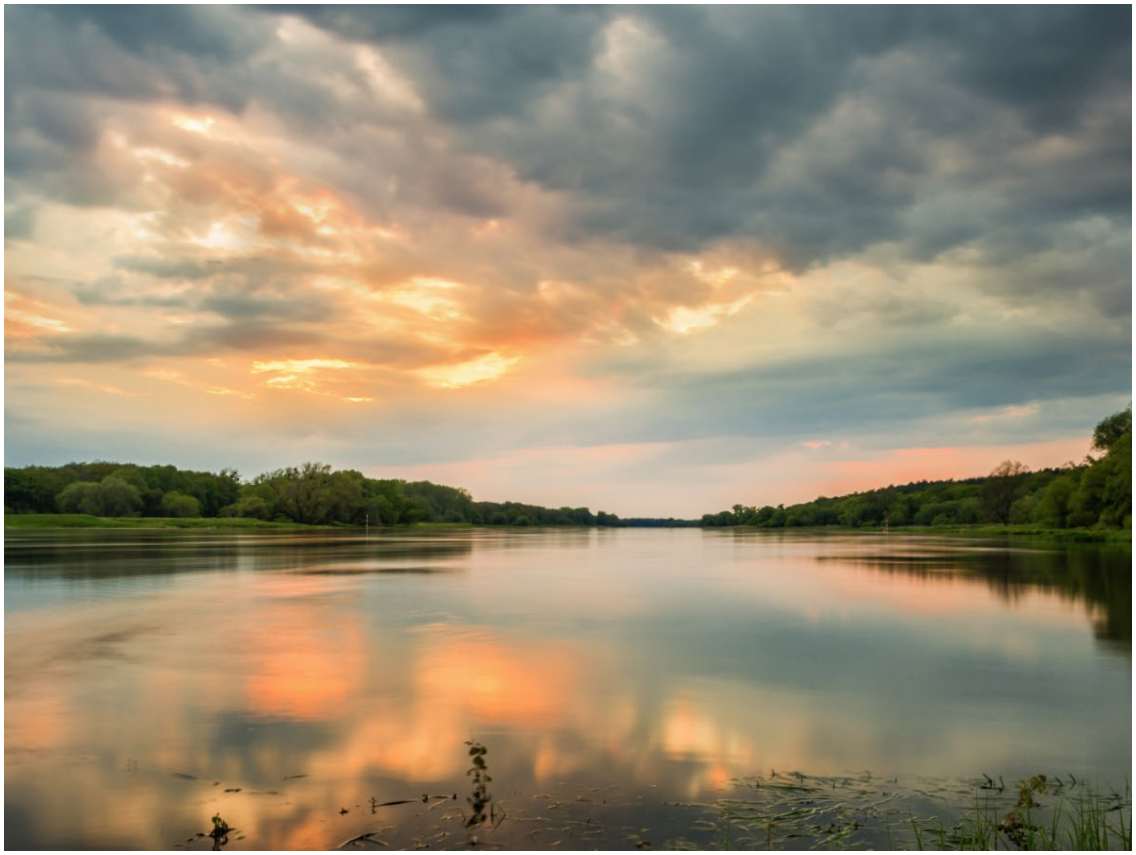
Whiffs and Puffs

First air capture test centre to open in Innisfail

CASA aims to stay updated on the latest research and developments in air quality. A recent newsletter from the Canadian Energy Centre, reported that Innisfail, Alberta is set to house the world's first direct air capture test centre.

This new facility will pilot technologies to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to fight climate change. This facility is one of many planned for across Canada as direct air capture technology is tested. The site, called Deep Sky Alpha is anticipated to be fully functional from August 2025 with a generous investment from Emissions Reduction Alberta. Carbon Dioxide captured from the facility will be sent to Sturgeon County and injected into the Meadowbrook Carbon Storage Hub.

For more information about this article, see here.



Upcoming Events and Meetings

- Board Meeting - December 11, 2025, Edmonton (QEII Building)

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