



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Messaging that links changes in air quality to measures undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta released

Edmonton. A new report by the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) has developed messages to link changes in air quality with measures undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta. Some of the stay-at-home measures implemented by the province in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in measurable reductions in motor vehicle traffic and provided an unprecedented real-world opportunity to examine the impact of motor vehicle traffic volume on air quality, and in turn, human health.

Messaging developed by the *Impacts of Reduced Transportation on Air Quality in Alberta Associated with COVID-19 (IRTAQ)* project includes a range of actions that can be undertaken by all Albertans, including individuals, government, and others, to reduce transportation emissions to lead to cleaner air, and improved public health outcomes.

The messages will be publicly available in the *IRTAQ* report and on the CASA website. “The process of developing and compiling messages involved a multi-stakeholder team,” says CASA executive director Andre Asselin. “The messages will help encourage continuous improvement in air quality through awareness and action from all Albertans.”

The *IRTAQ* report also includes an analysis of Alberta’s ambient air quality and traffic counts before and during the implementation of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and information about air pollution and associated human health impacts.



“The human health component of the report reinforces why the findings of reduced motor vehicle traffic are important, because there are public health benefits to reducing transportation-related emissions,” notes David Spink, the NGO co-chair of the IRTAQ Project Team. “The report provides an overview of Alberta’s vehicle emissions relative to other provinces and Canada as a whole, as well as the types and magnitude of vehicle-related health impacts in Canada.”

Visit <https://www.casahome.org/past-projects/impacts-reduced-transportation-air-quality-alberta-associated-covid-19-project-team-60/> to access the report. Follow us on Twitter @CleanAirSA.

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership. It is composed of representatives selected by industry, government, and non-government organizations to provide strategies to assess and improve air quality for Albertans, using a collaborative consensus process. Every partner is committed to a comprehensive air quality management system for Alberta.

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