



# Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable

## News Release

For immediate release

June 22, 2009

### **Fine particulate matter readings trending downward in Quesnel** *Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable presents annual findings*

**QUESNEL, B.C.** – Despite an increase in particulate matter at monitoring stations in 2008, Quesnel's air quality is still improving, according to the Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable. The group met June 16 to discuss the 2008 air quality results.

Quesnel has seen improvements in the levels of fine particulate matter in the air over the last several years. It is measured at three monitoring sites (Quesnel Secondary School, Correlieu Secondary School and Maple Drive School). In 2007, many of the measured values were at their lowest recorded levels. In 2008, however, most readings climbed at each site. Such year-to-year fluctuations are expected and reflect the major influence that weather conditions have on particulate matter concentrations. When viewed over the long-term, there is still an overall downward trend.

Despite the downward trend, all three sites continue to exceed the Health Reference Levels some of the time and only the Correlieu site is meeting the Quesnel Airshed Management Plan Goals for 2007.

"We're seeing a downward trend; we know we are moving in the right direction, but there's more work to be done," said Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable Chair Dora MacMillan. "This is a long-term vision and investment in our community's health. We can all help by idling our vehicles less, burning less wood, and working together to reduce the dust on our streets, parking lots and driveways."

MacMillan noted that residents would not see immediate, noticeable changes because of the Roundtable's efforts. Rather, incremental steps towards improving air quality will have long-term, cumulative effects that should be favourable when compared to previous years. She added that public education must continue to raise awareness of the importance of being mindful of air quality. The Air Quality Roundtable website – [www.quesnelairshed.org](http://www.quesnelairshed.org) – provides information about the Roundtable, the planning process and updated reports from each stakeholder outlining progress made.

The Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder, community-driven initiative that has developed an improvement plan for air quality in Quesnel. Stakeholders include government (local and provincial), industry, businesses and the public at large.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Dora MacMillan, Chair  
Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable  
Phone: (250) 992-3770  
Web: [www.quesnelairshed.org](http://www.quesnelairshed.org)