

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - Attention Editor

DUST ADVISORY CONTINUED FOR WILLIAMS LAKE

(March 22, 2019 8:00 local Pacific time - Kamloops) The Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy in collaboration with the Interior Health Authority issued an Air Quality Advisory for Williams Lake on March 21, 2019. The Air Quality Advisory remains in effect due to high concentrations of fine particulate matter that are expected to persist until weather conditions change.

Exposure is particularly a concern for infants, the elderly and those who have underlying medical conditions such as breathing or lung conditions, hay fever, asthma or persons who react strongly to dust. If you are experiencing symptoms such as continuing eye or throat irritation, chest discomfort, shortness of breath, cough or wheeze, follow the advice of your health care provider.

Real-time air quality observations and information regarding the health effects of air pollution can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air>.

Tips to reduce your personal health risk:

- Avoid roads with heavy vehicle traffic.
- If you stay indoors, keep windows and doors closed and reduce indoor sources of pollution, such as smoking, vacuuming and use of wood stoves.
- Continue to control medical conditions such as asthma, hay fever and chronic respiratory disease. If symptoms continue to be bothersome, seek medical attention.
- Maintaining good overall health is a good way to prevent health effects resulting from short-term exposure to air pollution.

Voluntary Emission Reduction Actions:

- Avoid the use of wood stoves and fireplaces unless the sole source of residential heat.
- Where wood stoves or fireplaces are the sole source of residential heat, use only CSA/EPA emissions approved wood-burning appliances and well-cured wood, and ensure an adequate supply of combustion air.
- Follow local backyard burning bylaws.
- Avoid backyard burning where a bylaw does not exist.
- Reduce the use and idling of vehicles.

Additional Information:

- This advisory has been triggered by high concentrations of dust, measured as PM₁₀, or particles 10 micrometers or smaller in diameter.
- The current dusty conditions are caused by road traffic stirring up winter traction materials that have accumulated on roadways over the past winter.
- Real-time air quality information from Williams Lake and other B.C. communities can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air>.
- The provincial air quality objective for PM₁₀ is 50 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), averaged over 24 hours. 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentrations are summarized below for Williams Lake and other communities at 08:00 (local Pacific time) today:

Community	Prince George	Quesnel	Williams Lake
Concentration (µg/m ³)	108.2	98.8	53.6

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