

state
of
the
air
2026

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Foreword

by Christopher Lam, President & CEO, BC Lung Foundation

Whether it's our climate, our environment, or our habits, air quality is shaped by multiple factors every day. As British Columbia faces increasingly complex public health challenges driven by climate change, the importance of accessible, science-based air quality information has never been greater. From wildfire smoke and extreme heat to indoor air quality and emerging environmental risks, protecting lung health requires informed action, collaboration, and resilience.

This year's State of the Air report highlights the growing need for people-centred approaches that help individuals, families, and communities make informed decisions to reduce harm to human health. Clear communication and intuitive tools are essential to helping people identify risks and take protective action. Efforts such as the collaboration from BC Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) and Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) to update air quality warning systems, including the introduction of a colour-based alert system aligned with existing weather advisories from Environment and Climate Change Canada, aim to make public information more accessible, understandable, and user-friendly.

The 2026 Air Quality & Health Workshop focused on emerging public health challenges in a changing climate. As wildfire season continues to increase in frequency and severity, those living with lung disease are especially susceptible to negative health effects. Recognizing wildfire smoke exposure as a significant threat to public health, the workshop's speakers addressed its ongoing impacts, highlighting the need for further policy changes, public health guidance, and interventions.

This report showcases initiatives helping to close critical gaps in air quality monitoring and public awareness. For communities without access to real-time government monitoring stations, projects such as the Air Quality – Community Action, Resilience, and Empowerment (AQ-CARE) are expanding access to localized air quality information. Emerging technologies continue to offer new opportunities to improve monitoring, advance research, and deepen our understanding of how air pollution affects health.

The State of the Air report also includes our annual comparison of provincial and national air quality objectives, pollutant trends over the past decades, and updates from partner agencies, like improvements to alert systems, community outreach, transportation strategy, and air quality standards, monitoring, and forecasting. Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment among institutions, agencies, researchers, and communities to protect both people and ecosystems.

As the risks associated with climate change continue to evolve, our approaches to communication, intervention, and public health protection must change alongside it. By prioritizing lung health, supporting evidence-based initiatives, and building resilience across communities, we can help keep British Columbians safe now and into the future.



Thermal Safety in Apartments: Staying Cool and Breathing Easier as Summer Gets Hotter



As summers become hotter and heat waves more frequent, keeping homes safe and healthy is becoming an urgent concern—especially for people living in apartment buildings. This challenge, known as “thermal safety”, refers to a building’s ability to maintain indoor temperatures below 26°C. When indoor spaces become too hot for too long, the risks are serious and can include heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration, and worsening of existing health conditions. The elderly, people with disabilities, and people with chronic illnesses face the greatest risks.

In the Metro Vancouver region, many apartment buildings were designed for a much cooler climate. Built decades ago, they often lack features needed to manage today’s extreme summer heat. Evidence summarized in Metro Vancouver’s *Thermal Safety in Existing Multi-Unit Residential Buildings* report shows that during heat events, indoor temperatures in many apartments can rise well above levels considered safe and remain elevated for extended periods. In some cases, outdoor temperatures can also stay very high overnight, offering no relief time and adding to the strain people experience during multi-day heat events.

The risks associated with indoor heat became tragically clear during the 2021 heat dome event that killed more than 600 people in BC. The BC Coroners Service found that 98% of those heat-related deaths occurred indoors and mostly in apartment buildings without adequate cooling. Prolonged indoor heat, combined with limited cooling options and individual health and social factors, created dangerous conditions—particularly for people living alone or with underlying health issues.

Why Apartments Face Higher Heat Risks

Thermal safety challenges in apartments are largely shaped by both building design and governance. Upper-floor units, south- and west-facing suites, older windows, limited exterior shading, and inadequate insulation can all contribute to overheating. Many existing buildings also lack mechanical cooling or have ventilation systems that were not designed for long stretches of hot weather. At the same time, residents usually can’t make major changes on their own—meaning solutions often require coordinated action at the building level, which can take months or years.

Passive Cooling—and Its Limits

During hot weather and heat waves, many residents rely on passive cooling actions such as opening windows, closing blinds, putting up reflective window coverings, and encouraging airflow. These can help during milder heat events, especially when outdoor temperatures cool down in the evening. However, during extreme heat or heat dome conditions, outdoor temperatures can remain very high day and night, making passive strategies ineffective.

Poor outdoor air quality can further limit these options. Wildfire smoke events in BC often occur in mid to late

summer, coinciding with extreme heat, and opening windows can draw polluted air indoors. For residents in buildings without air conditioning or heat pumps to provide cooling, this creates difficult tradeoffs between staying cool and maintaining healthy indoor air.

What Can Be Done

There are steps residents and buildings can take—both now and over time. In the short term, using window films or coverings to reflect sunlight, monitoring indoor temperatures, and checking in on neighbours who may be vulnerable, can reduce immediate risk during heat events.

Longer-term protection requires building-level planning. Measures such as exterior shading, improved windows, better insulation, upgraded ventilation, and heat pump cooling appliances that also support clean indoor air are most effective when planned together. Many buildings don’t have good information on how their buildings perform, or where to start with upgrades. The **BC Retrofit Accelerator** is a new initiative run by the non-profit Zero Emissions Innovation Centre to tackle this exact problem. The Accelerator was created to provide coaching services at no cost to strata, rental, and affordable housing buildings. Energy coaches do a walk-through of buildings and use energy bills and other data to give owners a stronger understanding of their upgrade options. Coaches and owners then create a plan together for upgrades that meet the owners’ long-term needs, including thermal safety and healthy indoor air.

As the climate continues to change, staying cool and breathing easier at home will increasingly depend on planning ahead, assessing upgrade options, and building designs that put people’s health first.

Air Quality & Health Workshop Highlights

Over the last couple of decades, wildfire season in BC has become significantly longer and more severe. The smoke from wildfires travels thousands of kilometers, putting many at risk of adverse health effects, especially for people with existing lung conditions. The 23rd annual Air Quality and Health Workshop, held on April 21st, 2026, in Vancouver, BC, brought together speakers from around the world to share the latest findings on the health impacts of wildfire smoke exposure. The theme of the workshop was “*Here Comes the Smoke: Public Health Challenges in a Changing Climate*”, recognizing the challenges policy makers face when protecting populations from an exposure that will continue to increase in the coming years. Speakers highlighted recent research that links recurring wildfire smoke exposure to a wide range of health impacts, with emphasis on public health implications.

Dr. Sarah Henderson from the BC Centre for Disease Control opened the conference with an overview of the health impacts of recurring wildfire smoke exposure. The talk highlighted how wildfire smoke is the largest public health threat associated with climate change in North America and needs to be addressed. There is now abundant evidence that shows a clear association with acute respiratory outcomes and adverse impacts across the body. To protect populations from this exposure,

engineering interventions, behaviour change, and personal protective equipment solutions must be taken.

Dr. Chris Carlsten from the University of British Columbia spoke about the differences between wildfire smoke and other sources of pollution and why wildfire smoke is more harmful. This can be linked to higher levels of ultra-fine particles, toxic contents in burned material, and the oxidative potential of wildfire smoke as it travels far distances. For example, research shows that wildfire smoke is 10 times more harmful to children’s acute respiratory compared to an adult’s respiratory health, especially for children aged 0-5. Further research is being conducted on the efficacy of NSAIDs to mitigate these health impacts. More research needs to be conducted to understand the gaps in interventions and policies to protect outdoor workers.

Dr. Fay Johnston from the University of Tasmania provided an overview of the Hazelwood Health Study, a 10-year study that followed a significant poor air quality event in Morwell, Australia. This air quality event was the result of a coal mine fire in proximity to the town, leaving the community covered in smoke for 6 weeks. This study ran from 2014-2024, with seven health impacts to better understand: respiratory, cardiovascular, cancer, psychological, mortality, wellbeing and recovery, and maternal, neonatal, and natal health.

Dr. Sanjay Rajagopalan from Case Western Reserve University provided an overview of the latest research related to chronic wildfire smoke exposure and cardiopulmonary health. He emphasized the differences between wildfire smoke and other pollutants, and how the size and oxidative nature of wildfire smoke makes it highly

The smoke from wildfires travels thousands of kilometers, putting many at risk of adverse health effects, especially for people with existing lung conditions.

inflammatory for the body. Research indicates that chronic wildfire smoke exposure increases the risk of heart failure for older adults. He also highlighted the impact of the co-exposures of extreme heat and wildfire smoke, as both exposures put stress on the body and increase the risk of an adverse health event. Policy and public health implications included the need for increased indoor and outdoor air quality measurement, as we cannot manage what we don’t measure.

Dr. Angela Yao from the BCCDC spoke about wildfire smoke and long-term health, aside from cardiopulmonary effects. This exposure can particularly impact pregnant people in the prenatal phase, increasing the risk of pre-term births or low birthweight, leading to lifelong impacts. Additionally, wildfire smoke exposure in the prenatal phase can increase the odds of the fetus developing congenital heart disease, spina bifida, or cleft lip. Research also shows that prenatal exposure to wildfire smoke, particularly in the second trimester, significantly increases the likelihood of early childhood respiratory infections and antibiotic use. These findings highlight the importance of reducing wildfire smoke exposure throughout pregnancy.



Dr. Sarah
Henderson



Dr. Chris
Carlsten



Dr. Fay
Johnston



Dr. Sanjay
Rajagopalan



Dr. Angela
Yao



Dr. Abdel
Darwich



Dr. Michael
Koehle



Dr. Stephanie
Harvard



Dr. Marshall
Burke

Dr. Abdel Darwich from Guttman & Blaevoet Consulting Engineers spoke about protecting indoor air quality during wildfire smoke events. He emphasized the 4 key concepts of ASHRAE guideline 44, a guide to protect building occupants from smoke during wildfire and prescribed burn events. These concepts included knowing, planning, preventing smoke, and removing smoke. He explained we should see the house as a living body; it should filter, as lungs do; it should detect smoke, as noses do; and it should cough using air pressure, the same way we do. This was meant to highlight the importance of using MERV-13 filters and portable air cleaners, indoor air quality monitors, and keeping indoor pressure higher than outdoor pressure. This talk also discussed the importance of acknowledging gaps and advocating for change. Currently, building codes do not protect occupants from wildfire smoke and extreme heat. Advocating for these policy changes can protect those most at-risk to these exposures.

Dr. Michael Koehle from the University of British Columbia spoke about wildfire smoke and advising on outdoor events with imperfect evidence. Recent events, such as the Whistler GranFondo in September 2025, have brought to the forefront the challenges in hosting large-scale events during poor air quality. Competing interests, unclear evidence, and varying access to reliable air quality data have led to confusion. In general, sports are heterogeneous and require differing levels of physical exertion, making it difficult to set one guideline for all events. Dr. Koehle highlighted components of a good policy, which include providing details of the policy early, explaining the AQHI, setting a cutoff point, specifying the timing of decisions, and detailing cancellation options.

Dr. Stephanie Harvard from the Legacy for Airway Health spoke about wildfire smoke and health recommendations, and specifically the importance of understanding community values, preferences, and needs. The Lungs on Fire research initiative aims to do this by understanding what influences decision-making and what informa-

tion people want included in wildfire smoke guidance. Qualitative interviews highlighted community members' thoughts on common guidance, such as using an air filter, wearing a mask, and staying indoors. Other areas of concern included trustworthiness of sources, effectiveness of recommendations, and strength of evidence. These findings will help guide public health in developing health recommendations for wildfire smoke events.

Dr. Marshall Burke from Stanford University closed the workshop with a talk on the burden of disease from wildfire smoke in a changing climate. Over the last century, wildfire suppression in the U.S. has led to increasing fuel accumulation. This, along with a warming climate and increasingly dry landscape, has led to a severe increase in the severity and duration of wildfire season. Trends in air quality improvement have now stagnated or reversed across the U.S. These increases in exposure, even when moderate, have contributed to roughly 40 thousand deaths annually in the U.S. since 2011.

For more information about this year's workshop, visit the [BC Lung Foundation website](#).

HERE COMES THE SMOKE

Public Health Challenges
in a Changing Climate



AQ-CARE: Local Air Quality Data to Support Community Action

Wildfire smoke has become a familiar part of summer across our region. However, many communities, especially smaller, rural, or remote areas, lack access to local air quality information.

The **Air Quality – Community Action, Resilience, and Empowerment (AQ-CARE)** project was created by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to expand access to information on local smoke conditions using lower-cost air quality sensors installed in partnership with community organizations.

Building Community Monitoring Networks

Government regulatory air quality monitoring stations are essential, but they are spread out across BC and cannot fully capture the local variation that exists between and within communities. Many smaller, rural, remote, and Indigenous communities have had little to no local smoke data, making it difficult for residents and organizations to understand their risk or what actions to take during smoke events. For example, there is one active government monitor on the Sunshine Coast and none in Powell River. Even communities that do have government monitors often don't have enough monitors to show how air quality varies across local geography.

The AQ-CARE project has purchased and supported the installation of **more than 80 low-cost air quality sensors at approximately 40 community locations** in both urban and rural areas across the VCH region. They are hosted by a wide range of partners such as libraries, community centres, schools, childcare facilities, seniors' centers, and neighbourhood houses.

To monitor smoke exposure, the lower cost sensors measure the presence of

tiny particles called **fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})**. Major sources of PM_{2.5} in our region include smoke from wildfires, residential wood-burning stoves, and fireplaces. PM_{2.5} particles are small enough to travel deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, where they can have both short-term and longer-lasting health impacts.

Maintaining this network of sensors requires significant ongoing effort from VCH staff. Each installation requires site selection, coordination with partners, troubleshooting wi-fi and power issues, and ongoing maintenance to keep sensors online and collecting reliable data. Sensors are regularly monitored, troubleshooted, and replaced when needed.

Measuring Indoor Air

People spend most of their time indoors and go inside to get away from wildfire smoke, but we are still learning how well indoor spaces keep out smoke. AQ-CARE includes both **outdoor and indoor sensors** at select sites. Indoor monitoring helps us better understand how much outdoor smoke is getting into community buildings and how to better protect health.

Data collected since 2022 shows that indoor air quality during smoke events varies widely between buildings. Some spaces are very effective at keeping indoor PM_{2.5} levels low, while others experience indoor levels that are much closer to outdoor conditions. These differences are likely influenced by factors such as ventilation systems, air filtration, and how spaces are operated during smoke events.

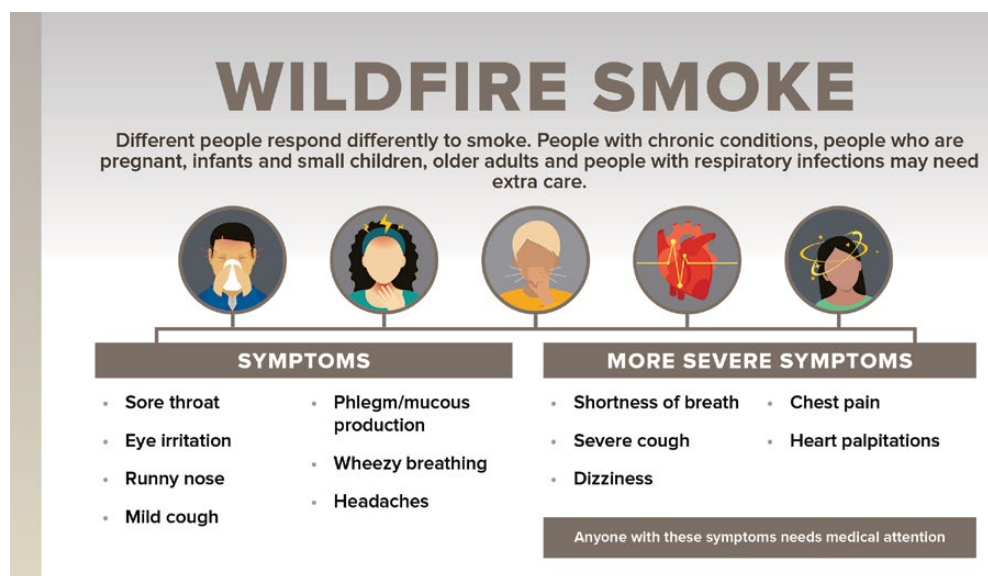
Indoor air quality data can help:

- Identify buildings that already function well as cleaner air spaces.
- Highlight spaces where improvements—such as better filtration or operational changes—could reduce smoke entry.
- Support informed decisions during smoke events about where people can access cleaner air.

Turning Data into Practical Action: Community Engagement

AQ-CARE data supports both individual and community-level action. Community members can use real-time information to decide when to reduce

Below (Source): <https://www.vch.ca/en/wildfire-smoke>



1-HOUR PM _{2.5} (µg/m³)	PROVINCIAL AQHI	AQHI RISK CATEGORY	HEALTH MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK	HEALTH MESSAGE FOR GENERAL POPULATION	ACTIONS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE
0 - 10	1	LOW	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.	Normal air quality in British Columbia.
11 - 20	2				
21 - 30	3				
31 - 40	4	MODERATE	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms.	• Use a portable air cleaner or DIY box fan air cleaner to reduce smoke in your home. • Stay inside with doors and window closed, but keep cool - heat-related illness is more risky than breathing smoke for most people. • Visit places with cleaner and cooler air, such as libraries, community centres, and shopping malls. • Wear a well-fitted respirator (e.g. N95) outdoors.
41 - 50	5				
51 - 60	6				
61 - 70	7	HIGH	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activity outdoors.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms.	
71 - 80	8				
81 - 90	9				
91 - 100	10				
101+	10+	VERY HIGH	Avoid strenuous activity outdoors.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activity outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms.	

Above: Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)

outdoor activity, visit cleaner indoor air spaces, or use portable air cleaners. Organizations can use the data to guide building operations during smoke events, adjust programming, or communicate more clearly with the people they serve.

Engagement is a central part of the AQ-CARE project because many people are still learning about their local air quality, why wildfire smoke is harmful to their health, and how to check air quality to make decisions based on current conditions. This work includes in-person presentations, participation in community events, printed resource packages, educational posters installed near sensors, and collaboration with local libraries, seniors' groups, and community organizations. Feedback from communities has consistently emphasized the value of face-to-face engagement and practical, locally relevant information.

For community partners hosting sensors, VCH provides monthly site-specific reports. Reports are designed to be readable and practical, helping partners understand their indoor and outdoor data from the past

month. Cumulative data reports, over the entire monitoring period, are also distributed to help partners understand longer-term air quality patterns, including the impact of local sources like winter wood-burning for heating.

Community Cleaner Air Spaces Study: A Related Research Partnership

Related to the AQ-CARE project, Vancouver Coastal Health and researchers with University of British Columbia Engineering have co-developed the Community Cleaner Air Spaces Study. This five-year partnership builds on AQ-CARE by installing research-grade air quality monitors at 18 selected locations that may serve as refuge spaces during wildfire smoke events. In addition to PM_{2.5}, the study is monitoring an expanded set of air contaminants.

This study aims to identify building characteristics that protect indoor air quality during smoke events and engage the public through the Hello Lamp Post platform for two-way communication about air quality and health impacts.

Supporting Local Resilience

Together, AQ-CARE and the Community Cleaner Air Spaces Study demonstrate how local monitoring, sustained partnerships, and applied analysis can support community-level action. By combining neighbourhood-scale outdoor data with building-level indoor data, these projects help communities better understand their air quality risks and the practical steps that can be taken to reduce exposure during wildfire smoke events.

How to Access the Air Quality Data

• **Real-time outdoor air quality data:** Visit <https://aqmap.ca> to view current and recent PM_{2.5} levels from AQ-CARE sensors, other low-cost sensors, and regulatory stations.

• **Learn more about VCH AQ-CARE:** Visit <https://www.vch.ca/en/aq-care>

• **Learn more about wildfire smoke and health:** Visit <https://www.vch.ca/en/wildfire-smoke>

How BC Measures Up: Air Quality in British Columbia

The 2025 wildfire season in British Columbia, while less catastrophic than the record-breaking 2023 season, remained well above the provincial 10-year average, with approximately 886,000 hectares burned across nearly every region of the province. A total of 1,370 wildfires were recorded since April 1, 2025, resulting in 42 evacuation orders affecting approximately 2,600 properties and 91 evacuation alerts affecting a further 6,950 properties^[1]. Despite fewer fire starts than average, the scale of area burned underscores the continued vulnerability of B.C.'s landscape to wildfire.

While B.C.'s 2025 season was more contained relative to 2023 and 2024, the national picture told a starkly different story. Canada experienced its second-worst

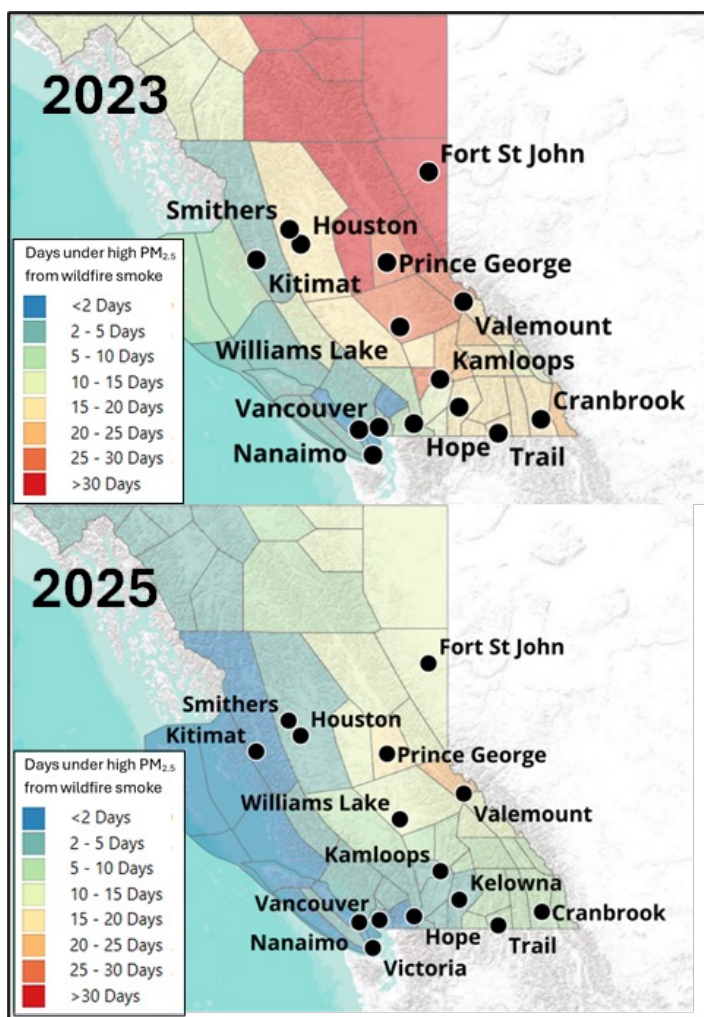
wildfire season on record, with over 7.3 million hectares burned nationally — more than double the 10-year national average. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories each surpassed one million hectares, collectively accounting for the majority of the national total. British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario were all also well above their long-term averages^[2].

Taken as a whole, the number of smoky days experienced across the province in 2025 was broadly in line with the 10-year average, offering a measure of relief compared to recent seasons. The contrast with 2023 remains striking (see images): that year stands as the worst on record for smoke exposure in B.C., with smoky days across most regions running at roughly double the long-term norm and some northern and interior communities enduring smoke for weeks on end. While 2025 brought fewer of those extended, province-wide smoke episodes, northern and central interior communities once again bore a disproportionate share of the burden, a pattern that has become increasingly familiar in recent fire seasons.

Smoke from B.C.'s 2025 wildfires produced repeated and widespread air quality impacts throughout the summer and into early fall. Air quality warnings were issued across more than 30 areas of the province from late July through September, including Metro Vancouver, Prince George, the Cariboo, the Chilcotin, and the South Peace River region. At the height of smoke events in early September, Metro Vancouver recorded air quality health index (AQHI) values at the maximum value of 10+, prompting Environment and Climate Change Canada to issue advisories and the Vancouver School Board to move all outdoor activities indoors. Vulnerable populations — including those with respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD, older adults, children, and pregnant individuals — faced elevated health risks during prolonged smoke exposure^[3].

Climate projections continue to point toward warmer, drier summers across Western Canada, conditions that are expected to increase both the frequency and intensity of future wildfire seasons. The back-to-back above-average seasons from 2023 through 2025 reflect a trend that poses growing challenges for air quality management, public health preparedness, and community resilience across the province.

In the following sections, air quality data collected in 2025 are summarized and compared against provincial or national objectives. Data from all available monitoring sites, except temporary mobile sites and industrial fenceline sites, are summarized in the Technical Appendix.



[1] BC Wildfire Service. (2025). 2025 Wildfire Season Summary. Government of British Columbia. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-history/wildfire-season-summary>

[2] Public Safety Canada. (2025, October 30). Government of Canada provides update on 2025 wildfires as support continues. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2025/10/government-of-canada-provides-update-on-2025-wildfires-as-support-continues.html>

[3] Little S. After summer of clear skies, smoke blankets Lower Mainland — with more to come. Global News [Internet]. 2025 Sep 3. Available from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/11391055/lower-mainland-air-quality-wildfire-smoke/>

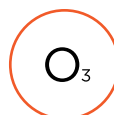


Fine Particulate Matter

Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})—tiny particles smaller than 2.5 micrometres—are estimated to contribute to the premature deaths of around 1,900 British Columbians each year. These particles penetrate deep into the lungs, causing immediate harm such as airway irritation and long-term damage such as heart and lung diseases.

There were 59 monitoring sites across B.C. that measured and reported hourly concentrations of PM_{2.5} for all or most of 2025. From these hourly measurements, daily and annual levels for 2025 can be calculated, with daily PM_{2.5} levels derived using the 98th percentile of 24-hour averaged values. In B.C., the daily 98th percentile levels ranged from 5.7 µg/m³ at Prince Rupert–Fairview to 54 µg/m³ at Valemount, where elevated concentrations are largely driven by wintertime residential wood burning combined with geography and cold-weather temperature inversions.

There were 12 monitoring sites that reported levels of PM_{2.5} that exceeded the provincial daily objective of 25 µg/m³. When the influence from wildfires is removed, provincial air quality objectives are met, except for Valemount, where exceedances are attributable to winter-time smoke rather than wildfire activity.

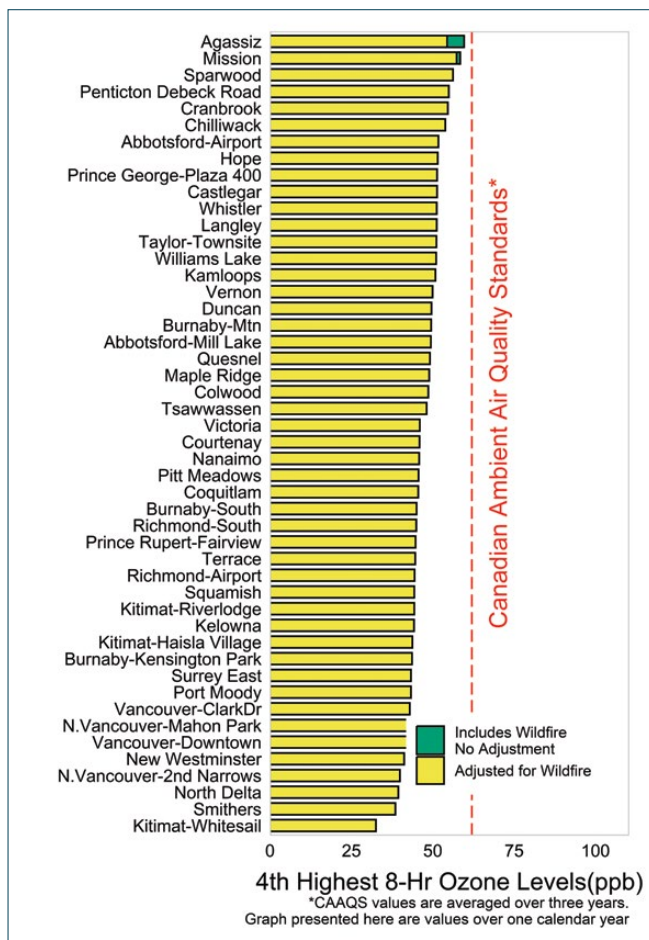
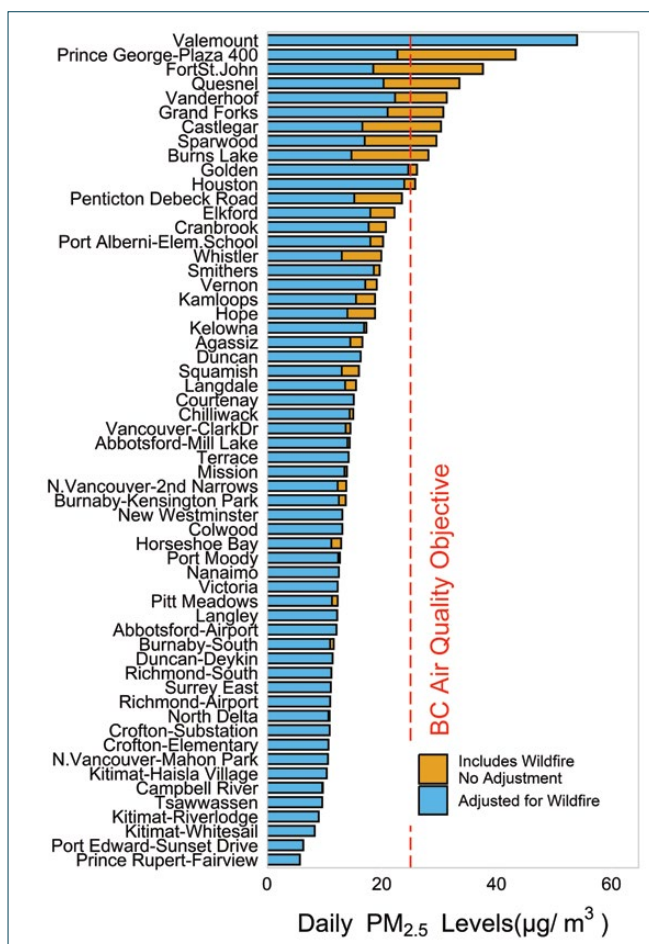


Ground-level Ozone

Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant produced just above the Earth's surface through complex chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. In British Columbia, NO_x is primarily emitted by the transportation sector and industrial activities, primarily during fossil fuel combustion. VOCs are released from various sources such as incomplete fuel combustion, industrial process and equipment leaks, residential wood burning, and the evaporation of fuels and solvents.

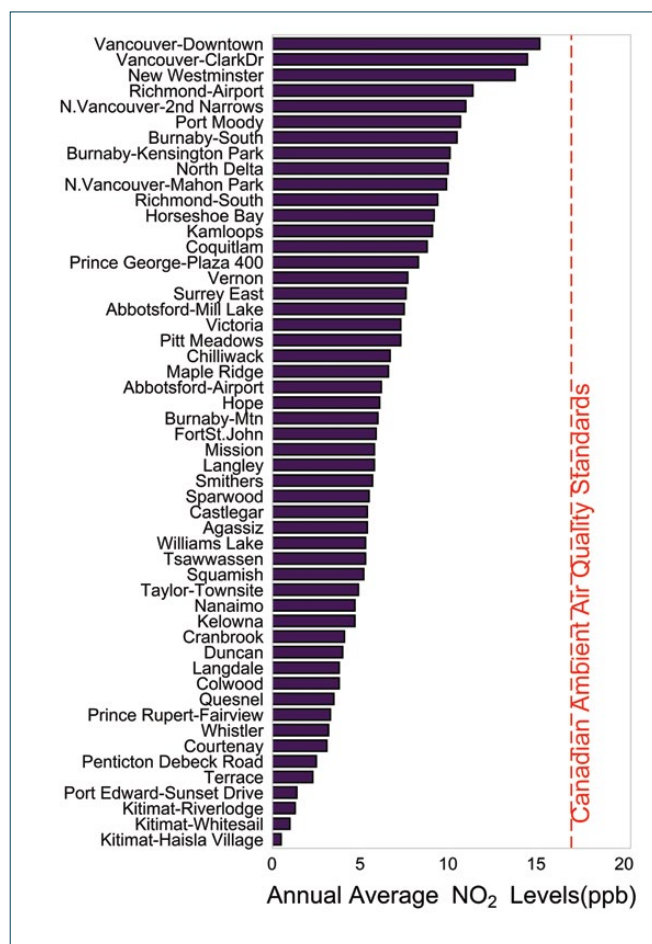
Unlike the ozone layer in the stratosphere, which protects life on Earth by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation, ground-level ozone is a pollutant that poses serious risks to human health. Short-term exposure can cause breathing difficulties, increase frequency of asthma attacks, aggravate other lung diseases such as emphysema and inflammation, and can even result in premature death. There is also evidence that long-term exposures can cause the development of respiratory problems such as COPD and asthma.

Ozone is also a major component of one of the most dangerous air quality conditions called photochemical or summer-



time smog. This type of smog occurs primarily in urban areas whenever ozone levels increase and combines with other pollutants under favourable sunlight and weather.

In 2025, ground-level ozone was monitored at 48 sites across the province. Annual concentrations, based on the 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour value, ranged from 32.5 ppb in Kitimat-Whitesail to 59.6 ppb in Agassiz. Notably, no monitoring station exceeded the numerical level of the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) of 60 ppb in 2025, an improvement over 2024, when Sparwood recorded 62.9 ppb. Because the CAAQS is assessed over three consecutive years and these are single-year values, the comparison reflects only the standard's numerical level, not a formal CAAQS achievement determination. Maximum concentrations across the province were generally lower than in 2024, and the highest values continued to occur at interior and eastern sites (Mission, Sparwood, Penticton Debeck Road, Cranbrook, Agassiz), reflecting the combined influence of transported precursors, regional emissions, and summertime meteorology.



Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is one of the air pollutants in the class known as nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are released as by-products of high-temperature combustion. The largest sources of NO_x in B.C. are the transportation sector and the upstream oil and gas industry. Both sectors rely on the combustion of fossil fuels to operate engines for propulsion or to maintain industrial operations.

Short-term exposures to NO₂ are linked to respiratory illnesses such as asthma and airway inflammation. There is also strong evidence of long-term effects, such as increasing the frequency of asthma attacks in adults and reducing lung function in growing children.

Beginning in 2025, the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for NO₂ were updated to more stringent levels. The annual standard was tightened from 17 ppb to 12 ppb, and the 1-hour standard was tightened from 60 ppb to 42 ppb. These updated thresholds better reflect current health evidence on the risks of NO₂ exposure and are now the benchmark used to evaluate air quality performance across the province.

In 2025, 52 monitoring sites across the province reported NO₂ data for at least part of the year. Annual average concentrations ranged from 0.5 ppb at Kitimat-Haisla Village to 15.2 ppb at Vancouver-Downtown. All sites remained below the Provincial Air Quality Objective of 17 ppb. However, under the updated 2025 CAAQS and Metro Vancouver Ambient Air Quality Objectives annual standard of 12 ppb, three sites — Vancouver-Downtown (15.2 ppb), Vancouver-ClarkDr (14.5 ppb), and New Westminster (13.8 ppb) — exceeded the new federal threshold. Through its commitment to the national Air Quality Management System (AQMS), British Columbia works with federal, provincial, and regional authorities to meet both national and provincial standards. As in previous years, the highest levels occurred at dense urban and near-roadside locations in Metro Vancouver, underscoring the continuing role of on-road vehicle emissions as a major source of NO₂ in B.C.



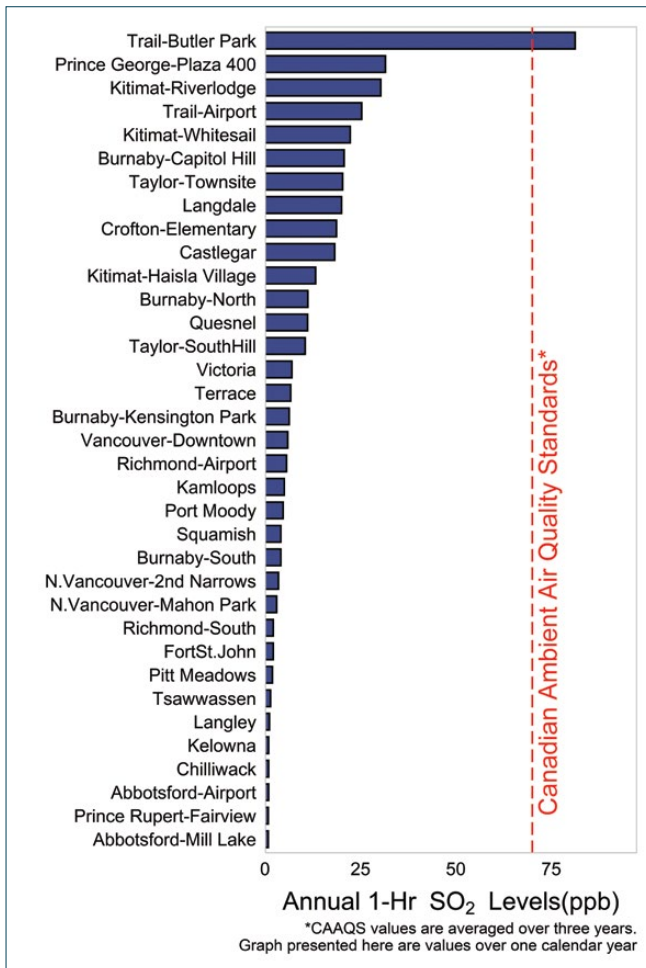
Sulphur Dioxide

Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) is a colourless, highly reactive gas best known for its contribution to the formation of acid rain. SO₂ is primarily an industrial pollutant, with major sources in the upstream oil and gas industry, diesel vehicles, ore and mineral smelting facilities, the pulp and paper sector, and marine vessels.

Short-term exposure to SO₂ is known to aggravate asthma and increase respiratory symptoms. In various health studies and exposure guidelines, short-term health impacts were observed from 10-minute exposures to very high SO₂ concentrations.

Beginning in 2025, the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for SO₂ were updated to more stringent levels. The 1-hour standard was tightened from 70 ppb to 65 ppb, and the annual standard was tightened from 5 ppb to 4 ppb. These updated thresholds reflect current health evidence on the risks of SO₂ exposure and are now the benchmark used to evaluate air quality performance across the province.

In 2025, SO₂ was monitored at 35 B.C. sites, excluding mobile and industrial fenceline facilities. SO₂ levels, based on the 1-hour metric (annual 99th percentile of daily 1-hour maximums), ranged from 0.8 ppb at Abbotsford-Mill Lake and Prince Rupert-Fairview to 81.2 ppb at Trail-Butler Park. All sites except Trail-Butler Park reported concentrations well below the new 65 ppb CAAQS 1-hour benchmark, with the next-highest site (Prince George-Plaza 400) recording only 31.5 ppb — less than half the standard. The elevated SO₂ levels near Trail continue to reflect the influence of the Teck Trail metallurgical complex, a long-standing regional source. Consistent with previous years, the highest concentrations province-wide were observed at monitoring sites in close proximity to industrial operations (Trail, Kitimat, Prince George, Castlegar, and Taylor), while the lowest levels were measured in the Lower Fraser Valley and urban Okanagan sites.

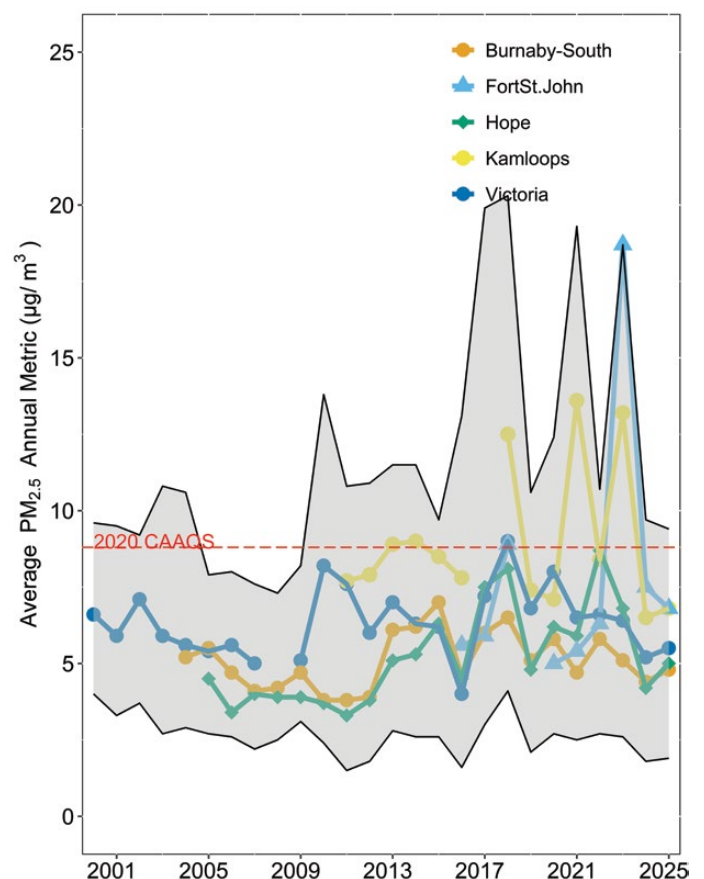


Trends: Air Quality in BC Through the Years

Looking at trends in air quality over time helps us see how things have changed — where emissions are coming from, whether policies are working, and how the actions we take together are improving the air we breathe. Trends also make it easier to compare different parts of the province and spot pollution hot spots that need more attention. The figures below show annual pollutant levels measured across B.C. over the past 20 to 30 years. Each graph highlights trends in selected communities, along with the lowest and highest levels recorded at monitoring stations across the province, giving a sense of how local air quality compares to the broader picture.

A key development in 2025 is the introduction of updated, more stringent Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for O₃, NO₂, and SO₂, which now serve as the benchmarks for evaluating these long-term trends and basis for updating provincial objectives. Reflecting the ongoing health risks posed by fine particulate matter, a more stringent CAAQS for PM_{2.5} was developed and approved in November 2025 and will take effect in 2030, further raising the bar for evaluating progress on this pollutant in the years ahead. These standards are established through a consensus-based process among Canadian jurisdictions, including British Columbia, under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), supporting the continuous improvement of air quality nationwide.

Over the past decade, wildfire smoke has emerged as a leading source of PM_{2.5} pollution in British Columbia. Annual average PM_{2.5} levels show clear spikes in major wildfire years, including the record-breaking 2018 season and the unprecedented 2023 and 2024 seasons, when smoke pushed several communities well above the B.C. Air Quality Objective. While the 2025 wildfire season was less severe than the years immediately preceding it, the roughly 886,000 hectares burned province-wide — which is above the 20-year average — continued to shape PM_{2.5} levels at many sites. Beyond wildfires, residential wood burning remains a dominant source of PM_{2.5} in some communities, especially in colder months when wood stoves and fireplaces see heavier use and temperature inversions trap smoke near the ground. As climate change intensifies, wildfires are projected to grow more frequent and severe, with smoke-driven PM_{2.5} expected to rise. The more

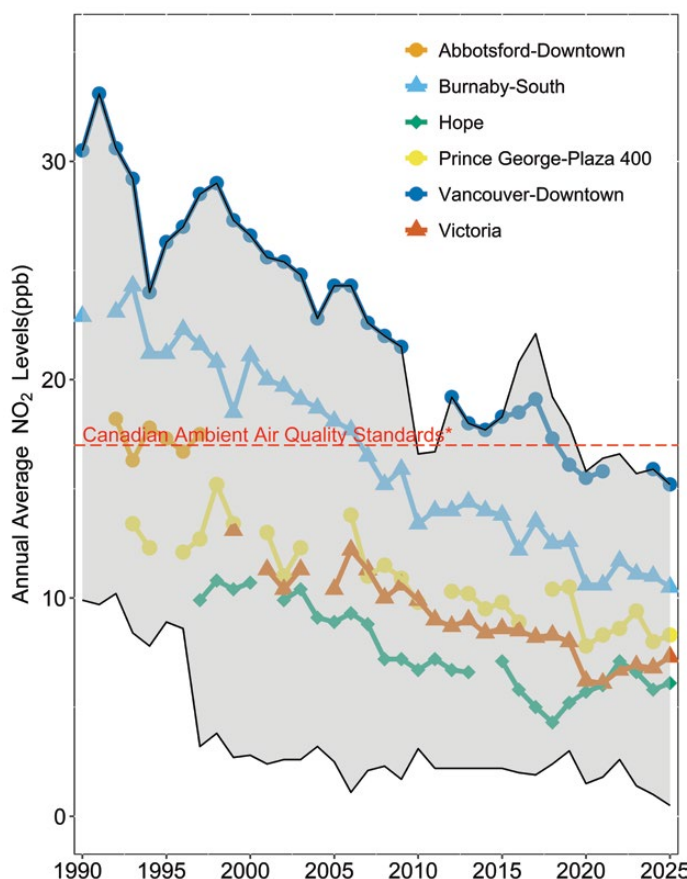
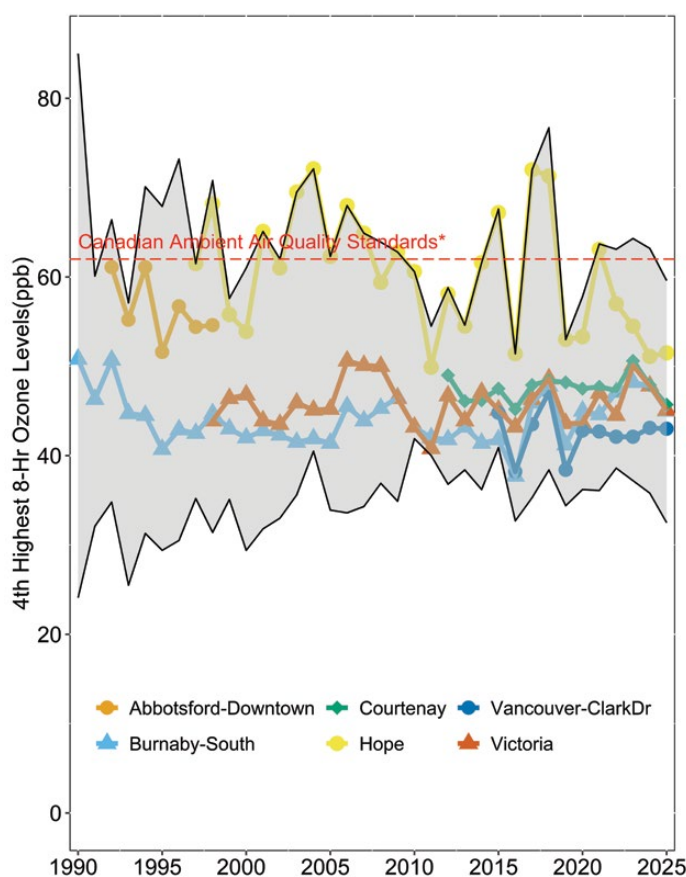


stringent CAAQS for PM_{2.5} taking effect in 2030^[4] will serve as a key driver for continuous improvement, encouraging sustained action to reduce fine particulate matter and protect public health.

Wildfires can also influence ground-level ozone. Smoke contains ozone-forming chemicals that react with sunlight, elevating ozone far from the fires themselves. The severe 2017 and 2018 wildfires carried smoke hundreds of kilometres from B.C.'s interior into the Lower Fraser Valley, pushing ozone above the national standard of 60 ppb, with long-range transport from fires as distant as Siberia also contributing. Extreme heat events, such as the 2021 heat dome, further amplify ozone formation by creating warm, stable conditions. Over the years, improved vehicle and fuel

standards — lowering volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions — have helped bring ozone levels down^[5]. This progress was clearly reflected in 2025: Hope, historically B.C.'s highest-ozone site, dropped below the CAAQS for the first time in several years, and most other monitored communities remained between 40 and 55 ppb. Looking ahead, rising summer temperatures and more intense wildfire seasons create real uncertainty about future trends, and continued vigilance will be needed to protect the progress made.

NO₂ levels, shown here as annual averages, have generally declined over the past three decades, largely thanks to more stringent vehicle emission and gasoline standards, improved emission-control technology in new engines and



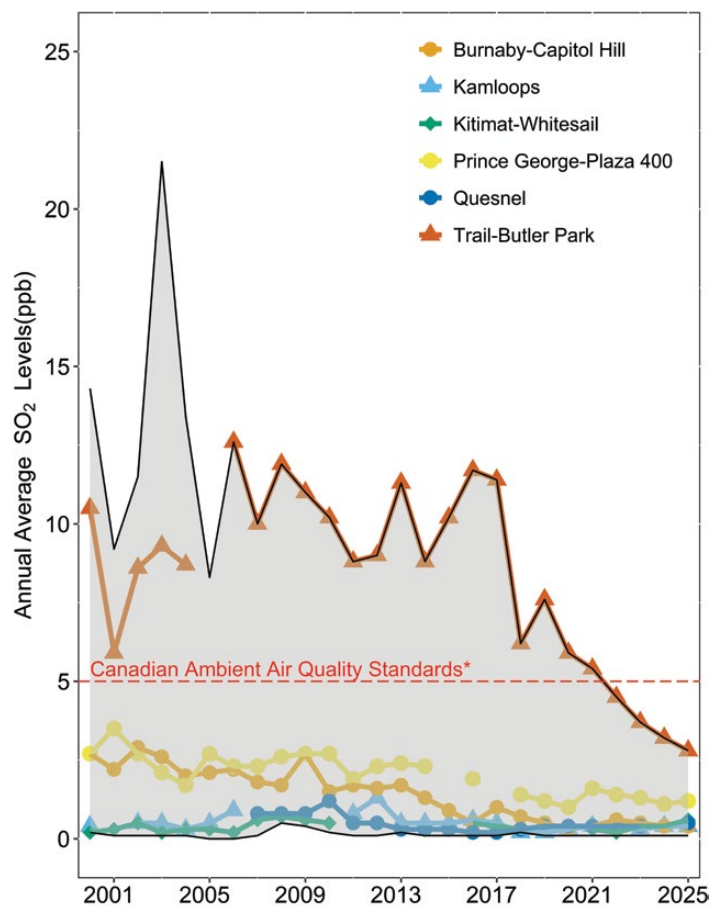
[4] Government of Canada. (2025, August 9). Government notices. Canada Gazette, Part I, 159(32). <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2025/2025-08-09/html/notice-avis-eng.html>

[5] Percy, K., & Dann, T. (2024). Long-term trends in British Columbia lower mainland air quality: Criteria air pollutants and VOC. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association*, 74(4), 261–278.

industrial equipment, and local actions such as promoting public transit and implementing anti-idling policies. Significant reductions were observed in several urban areas during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, primarily due to the drop in vehicular traffic. By 2025, all of the highlighted communities remained below the Provincial Air Quality Objective of 17 ppb — a notable milestone given that Vancouver-Downtown recorded annual averages above 30 ppb in the early 1990s and Burnaby-South was still above the objective as recently as the mid-2000s. While traffic emissions are widely recognized as the dominant source of NO₂ in urban areas, targeted research such as the Strathcona Area Air Quality Study^[6] is ongoing and awaiting final publication, with findings expected to provide a clearer picture of the specific sources contributing to local NO₂ levels. Current initiatives supporting low- and zero-emission vehicles are expected to drive further

reductions over the next decade, continuing the long-term downward trend and helping the province move closer to the more stringent updated 2025 CAAQS annual standard of 12 ppb.

SO₂ levels, shown here as annual averages, have continued to decline over the past decade and remain low across most of the province, well below the updated Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). This reflects sustained efforts to reduce sulphur emissions from diesel trucks, marine vessels, and industries such as petroleum refining, pulp and paper, metal smelting, electricity generation, and cement production. The highest SO₂ levels in B.C. have historically been observed in Trail, which in 2019 recorded the highest annual SO₂ level of any city in Canada. The 2025 data highlight a significant milestone: annual SO₂ levels at Trail-Butler Park have dropped sharply since around 2017 and now sit at or below the CAAQS for the first time — a substantial achievement reflecting ongoing emission-reduction efforts at local industrial facilities. Elsewhere in the province, monitored communities such as Burnaby-Capitol Hill, Kamloops, Kitimat-Whitesail, Prince George-Plaza 400, and Quesnel have consistently remained at low levels, demonstrating the long-term effectiveness of emission controls across diverse industrial and urban settings.



[6] Strathcona Residents Association. (2026). Air quality. <https://strathcona-residents.org/issues/air-quality/>

Updates from Partner Agencies



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) works with federal partners, provinces, and territories to improve air quality and reduce negative air quality impacts on human health and the environment; and to provide authoritative forecasts, warnings, data, and information services related to weather and air quality conditions to help Canadians make informed decisions about health, safety, and economic prosperity. Some highlights of work in the last year are presented here.

MSC-ECCC Colour-Coded Weather Alerts

In November 2025, ECCC upgraded their weather alert system to introduce colour-coded weather alerts, developed to make it easier to quickly understand the severity of extreme weather and its expected risk at a glance. Each type of weather alert – Warnings, Advisories, and Watches – now includes a colour, ranging from yellow, to orange, to red to show the seriousness of the weather event. This movement to colour-coded weather alerts helps people understand what the weather will do in addition to what it will be.

- **Yellow alerts** are the most common. They are issued when hazardous weather may cause damage, disruption, or health impacts. Impacts are likely moderate, localized, and/or short-term.
- **Orange alerts** are less common. They are issued when severe weather is likely to cause significant damage, disruption, or health impacts. Impacts can be major, widespread, and/or may last a few days.
- **Red alerts** are rare. They are issued when very dangerous and possibly life-threatening weather will cause extreme damage and disruption. Impacts have the potential to be extensive, widespread, and prolonged.

Air Quality alerts are part of the updated colour-coded weather alert

system. Air Quality Warnings are used to alert Canadians about the potential risks associated with air quality, when increased air pollutants (PM_{2.5}, O₃, NO₂) are expected or occurring. The Air Quality Warning provides guidance for individuals on what to do to protect their health during these events. The warning includes forecaster interpretation of the event, calls to action, and information on impacts. The warning will change colour based on the expected air quality risk: Moderate (Yellow Warning – Air Quality) when an AQHI of 7-10 (High Risk category) is expected or occurring and High (Orange Warning – Air Quality) when an AQHI of 10+ (Very High Risk category) is expected or occurring.

CAAQS Update

In July 2025, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment updated the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for PM_{2.5} for 2030. The 2030 PM_{2.5} CAAQS are more stringent than the existing CAAQS and will drive continuous improvement in air quality across the country, further protecting the health of people in Canada and sensitive ecosystems.

Low-Cost PM Sensor Pilot Project

ECCC continues its Low-Cost PM Sensor Pilot Project, which aims to assess the value of using PM sensors

to expand the spatial coverage of PM_{2.5} measurements during high PM events such as forest fires. The project is a collaboration with universities, provinces and territories, communities, First Nations, and other health and air quality agencies. A national and bilingual mapping tool for the low-cost PM sensor data has been developed through a collaboration between Dr. Peter Jackson from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and ECCC (<https://aqmap.ca/aqmap>). The page was updated to v3.6 in 2025, including improvements to the interface and backend data flow, and an additional major update is slated for 2026. Work by ECCC scientists to assess potential for low-cost sensors to improve forecasting of all AQHI pollutants is on-going.

Ventilation Index

ECCC is now operationally producing a gridded Ventilation Index forecast product designed to estimate how well the atmosphere disperses a surface layer point source of smoke on any given hour. The new forecast field is made available to partners and the public through Datamart and AniMet. Jurisdictions such as the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Parks, and Metro Vancouver have adapted existing ventilation products to ingest the new ECCC forecast.



Left: Real-time PM_{2.5} data available to the community via online map: <https://cyclone.unbc.ca/aqmap>



Santé
Canada

Health
Canada



Health Canada works with Environment and Climate Change Canada, provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous partners and community-based stakeholders to improve air quality through regulations, standards, guidelines, guidance, outreach and public information. Some highlights of the last year are presented below.

Wildfire Smoke Research

Health Canada has estimated the health impacts of wildfire-PM_{2.5} exposure in Canada for 2019 to 2023, as well as the long-term health impacts considering 2013-2023. For 2019-2023, the annual premature deaths attributable to wildfire-PM_{2.5} ranged from 49 to 400 and 660 to 5,400 for acute and chronic exposure, respectively. The economic valuation of the health burden was estimated at \$450M to \$3.6B for acute impacts and \$6.1B to \$49B for chronic impacts, per year. Considering the 10-year period from 2013-2023, more than 80% of the population had an average seasonal wildfire-PM_{2.5} exposure of at least 1.0 µg/m³. Associated with the long-term exposure were 1,900 attributable premature deaths with a total economic valuation of \$18B, per year. This study has been published in *GeoHealth: Health Impact Analysis of Wildfire Smoke-PM_{2.5} in Canada (2019–2023)*.

Health Canada contributed to a multi-organization study that investigated preterm births in Canada from 2010-2021. The research was published in March 2026 in *Environment International* and shows that exposures to heatwaves and PM_{2.5} were associated with increased risk of preterm birth and that exposure to both together augmented the impact synergistically. The study also found that PM_{2.5} originating from wildfire smoke produced larger pre-term birth risk estimates than non-wildfire PM_{2.5}.

Another study published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* looked at emergency department visits

in Ontario after two wildfire smoke episodes in June of 2023. Asthma-related visits increased substantially immediately after the first episode but the effect was substantially muted during a second episode later in the month despite higher exposures. The study cannot identify a cause for this change but suggests that treatment and guidance during the first episode may have encouraged behaviour changes and reduced the need for emergency visits.

The research was published in March 2026 in *Environment International* and shows that exposures to heatwaves and PM_{2.5} were associated with increased risk of preterm birth and that exposure to both together augmented the impact synergistically.

In Canada, the health risks associated with wildfire smoke are communicated to the public via air quality (AQ) alerts. These AQ alerts are issued when the levels of wildfire smoke are currently high or forecasted to be high, and pose a health risk to the general public. To quantify the number of people at risk of experiencing adverse health effects of wildfire smoke during a given time period, a population-based exposure metric was developed based on AQ alert data and geolocated population counts. This metric, measured in person-days, sums the population exposed when AQ alerts were issued within forecast regions. This study has been published in *Fire: Using Air Quality Alerts to Estimate Population-Based Wildfire Smoke Exposure from the 2023 Canadian Wildfire Season* | MDPI

Indoor Air Quality

Health Canada is currently working to update the Residential Indoor Air Quality Guidelines (RIAQG) for benzene and formaldehyde, ensuring that the latest science is considered and they remain protective of human health. Updated guideline values will be proposed along with recommendations for controlling sources or other actions that can reduce exposure from residential indoor air.

Health Canada published two indoor air guidance documents in September 2025. The *Guidance for Improving Indoor Air Quality in Office Buildings* summarizes ways to remediate, maintain and improve indoor air quality in office buildings. The *Guidance for Indoor Air Quality Professionals* provides information on the health effects of specific air contaminants, and on air sampling and monitoring.

In collaboration with the University of British Columbia, Health Canada is currently conducting research to examine indoor environmental quality (IEQ) in subsidized housing. The primary objec-



Above: Two indoor air guidance documents published by Health Canada in September 2025



tives of this study are to (1) characterize IEQ using low-cost sensors, research-grade air pollution sampling, and occupant surveys, and (2) examine the relationship between IEQ and short-term physiological responses measured using wearable devices, including heart rate variability, sleep quality, and blood oxygen saturation. Field data are being collected from May 2024 to May 2026 in three subsidized housing buildings in Metro Vancouver. Data compilation and analysis are ongoing, and results from this study are expected to be published as scientific papers.

Outreach

Health Canada leads the federal government Health Portfolio's wildfire preparedness and response activities related to wildfire smoke and air quality, heat, and mental health impacts. Health Canada has developed or updated a variety of public health resources for wildfire smoke. Since 2023, Health Canada participated in over 110 national and regional media interviews, provided air quality and health protec-

tive advice and provided air quality monitoring support to the provinces and territories. Health Canada has also hosted four virtual workshops on wildfire smoke and air quality for partners and stakeholders aimed to share information and resources, to share lessons learned and best practices and to provide a venue for partners and stakeholders to meet and network. Workshop topics included gathering feedback on wildfire smoke outreach and awareness tools and resources, learning best practices on establishing and managing community cleaner air spaces, learning and sharing Indigenous knowledge on wildfires and wildfire smoke and, sharing best practices on reaching and engaging other at-risk populations.

Health Canada has also supported national and regional Clean Air Day outreach and engagement campaigns as well as other projects to reach and engage youth/students, healthcare professionals, pregnant people, rural populations and renters.

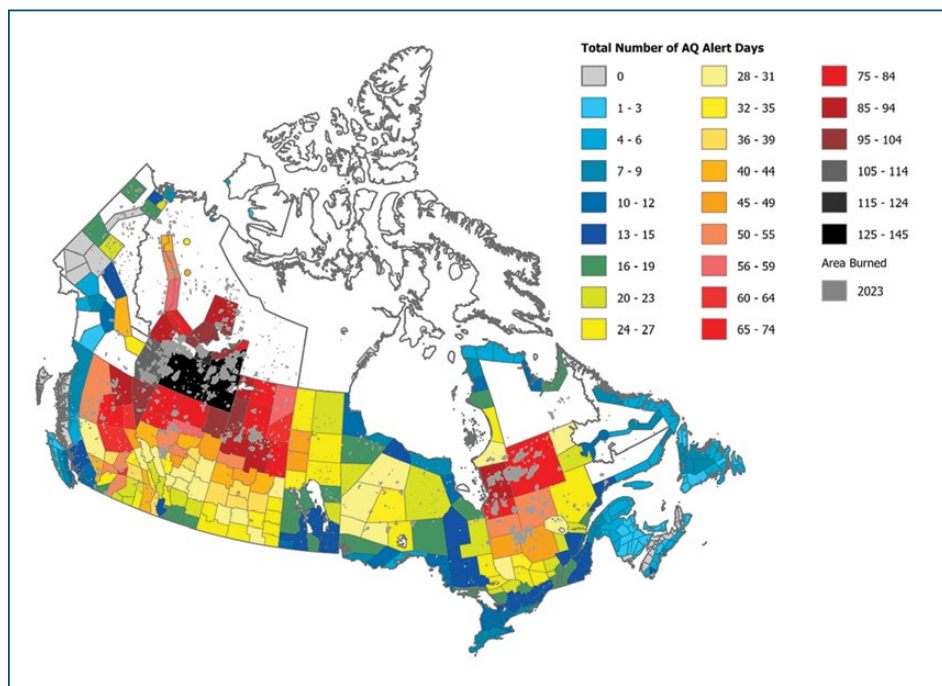
Zero-Emission Transportation Strategy

The Fraser Valley Regional District, in partnership with several of its member municipalities, began developing a zero-emission mobility strategy. The strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as criteria air pollutants associated with combustion vehicles, by facilitating the transition to electric vehicles, exploring opportunities for alternative fuels, and promoting and expanding e-micromobility options.



Agassiz Air Quality Station Relocation

The FVRD and Metro Vancouver collaborated to relocate the air quality station from Agassiz's municipal hall to a more permanent location in a nearby popular park. The new site offers improved access and provides more representative measurements of the community's exposure to criteria air contaminants. The relocated station also features a new educational sign highlighting local air quality challenges and opportunities.



Above: Map of Canadian forecast regions indicating number of days of AQ alerts related to wildfire smoke for 2023. The colours indicate the number of AQ alert days as per the legend. Overlaid areas in dark grey represent the wildfire burn areas.



Ministry of
Environment
and Parks



In 2025, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) endorsed strengthened Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for PM_{2.5}, with a 2030 implementation date. The strengthened standards endorsed by CCME in 2025, with a 2030 implementation date, lowers the 24-hour standard from 27 µg/m³ to 23 µg/m³ and the annual standard from 8.8 to 8.0 µg/m³. This aligns with B.C.'s previously more stringent Provincial Air Quality Objectives with the annual standard and is slightly more stringent than B.C.'s 24-hour standard of 25 µg/m³. B.C. uses CAAQS for air quality management, air zone reporting, and reference in developing Provincial Air Quality Objectives.

The Ministry released updated air zone reports for the 2021-2023 and 2022-2024 reporting periods and published hourly monitoring data and statistical summaries (2010-2024) through the BC Data Catalogue. Environmental Reporting BC indicators were also refreshed to improve public access to current data. For more information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/airzonereports

The B.C. Ventilation Index forecast, which is a regulatory requirement for determining whether conditions are favourable for open burning under the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR), is now published the evening before the forecasted date, making planning easier for individuals conducting open burns so they can burn in conditions that keep communities safe from smoke impacts. The updated index also draws on ECCC's new air quality models, which provide more accurate forecasts, particularly under low wind speeds and in geographically complex areas common in the province.

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

The Community Woodsmoke Reduction Program continues in 2025-2026 with 20 active programs province-wide, following a December 2024 funding announcement. Since 2008, the program has replaced approximately 11,000 wood-burning appliances, reducing PM emissions by an estimated 400 tonnes per year.

New provincial funding is now directed to Red Zone communities (those that currently or previously exceeded the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards based on air zone reports) and First Nations communities, though other communities may continue with their remaining funds. The Ministry of Environment and Parks and the BC Lung Foundation continue to provide technical and educational support to all program coordinators.

More info: www.gov.bc.ca/woodstove-exchange

Below: If you have one of these old wood stoves, you may be eligible to apply for an exchange rebate from your local Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program.

Top-Bottom (left-right): Homemade stove Barrel stove, Free-standing stove (non EPA certified), Airtight Non-EPA certified fireplace, Non-EPA certified wood furnace, Wood-burning cook stove



Since 2008, the program has replaced approximately 11,000 wood-burning appliances, reducing PM emissions by an estimated 400 tonnes per year.

Stewardship Activities

In 2025, the AQHI for Kitimat began to be calculated from three monitoring stations — Whitesail, Riverlodge, and the Haisla station in Kitimaat Village — expanding monitoring coverage in the area and consolidating readings into a single AQHI value for the community. In February 2026, the Kitimat Airshed Group Secretariat successfully requested that the District of Kitimat add AQHI data to its municipal website, providing residents with an additional public access point for real-time air quality information. The Group also hosted a native species planting event at Nechako Elementary through the GreenMyCity Grant program.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) Board adopted amendments to its open burning bylaws for the 2025-2026 season. By updating Bylaw 1066 (Fire Prevention and Regulations) and Bylaw 773 (Smoke Control Regulatory), the District has aligned local requirements for the Central Okanagan Electoral Areas East and West with the provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation regarding ventilation index requirements.

New Air Quality Warning System for 2026

Metro Vancouver has updated its Air Quality Warning System to align with Environment and Climate Change Canada. Air quality warnings will now be issued as yellow (high health risk) or orange (very high health risk) depending on conditions. These levels provide clear information about the degree of health risk, and the actions people may need to take. In collaboration with health authorities and partners, Metro Vancouver's air quality warning service has operated for over 30 years, and is for the entire Lower Fraser Valley airshed, including Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Sign up for warnings: metrovanancouver.org/AQAlerts

Learn more: [Air Quality Data and Warnings](#)

How It Works: Air Quality Monitoring Video

The clean air we enjoy today didn't happen by chance. It's the result of decades of regional monitoring, scientific expertise, and coordinated action under Metro Vancouver's air quality authority. This video walks through the history and science behind Metro Vancouver's regional air quality management system, which protects the air we all breathe.

Learn more: [Check out this video](#)
See real-time air quality data: www.airmap.ca



Reduce Wood Smoke Emissions for a Healthier Community

Wood smoke from residential indoor burning is a major source of health-harming air contaminants in the Metro Vancouver region. Residents who operate an indoor wood-burning device must declare that they use best burning practices, and in urban areas of the region, must register their eligible fireplace, wood stove, or pellet stove, with some exceptions such as during emergencies. Since September 15, 2025, fireplaces that are not emissions-certified can only burn manufactured fire logs to be eligible for registration. Use of residential indoor wood-burning devices is also prohibited from May 15 to September 15 each year in the Metro Vancouver region.

Learn more about the requirements, best burning practices, and how to register wood-burning fireplaces, wood stoves, and other wood burning devices: [About the Residential Indoor Wood Burning Bylaw](#)

Trends in Emissions from Transportation and Buildings

Metro Vancouver released two reports that provide new data on regional buildings and transportation trends related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, technology, and policy, including:

- Personal mobility and buildings are the largest sources of regional GHG emissions, and two of the largest sources of emissions that directly harm human health
- Over one quarter of new vehicles sold in the region last year were electric vehicles
- Many residents are shifting to more walking and cycling, which is reducing driving
- New buildings are more energy efficient, but existing buildings need accelerated upgrades.



Read more at:

- [Transportation \(Personal Mobility\) Emissions Trends in the Metro Vancouver Region](#)
- [Buildings Emissions Trends in the Metro Vancouver Region](#)

Stay Cool, Stay Safe

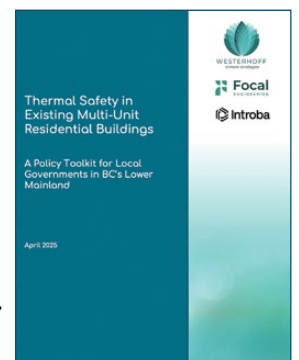
As summer days get hotter, look for ways to stay cool. Metro Vancouver and our partners have released a Thermal Safety Toolkit for apartment buildings that identifies a variety of ways to keep indoor temperatures safe, including installing cooling devices like heat pumps, adding shading to building exteriors, and improving airflow. The Toolkit provides guidance for building owners, occupants, and local governments to take action against unsafe heat levels.

Read More:
[Thermal Safety Toolkit](#)

Air Quality and Climate Action

Subscribe to receive updates on air quality and regional air quality and climate action initiatives or updates on bylaw regulation and enforcement at:

- [Air Quality and Climate Action Mailing List | Metro Vancouver](#)
- [Environmental Regulation and Enforcement Mailing List | Metro Vancouver](#)



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B.C. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

www.gov.bc.ca/bcairquality
525 Superior St, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M1
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HEALTH CANADA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM-BC REGION

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B.C. CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

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FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

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1-800-528-0661

B.C. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe
Health Protection Branch
PO BOX 9412 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9V1
1-250-957-1433

NORTHERN HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.northernhealth.ca
Suite 600, 299 Victoria St.
Prince George, B.C. V2L 5B8
(250) 565-2649

ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.viha.ca
1952 Bay St, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J8
(250) 370- 8699

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.vch.ca
601 West Broadway, 11th Floor,
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4C2
(604) 736-2033 or
1-866-884-0888

FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.fraserhealth.ca
Suite 400, Central City Tower
13450 – 102nd Ave, Surrey, B.C. V3T 0H1
(604) 587-4600 or
1-877- 935-5699

INTERIOR HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.interiorhealth.ca
220 – 1815 Kirschner Rd.
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 4N7
(250) 862-4200

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

www.fnha.ca
501-100 Park Royal South
Coast Salish Territory
West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1A2
(250) 862-4200

LEGACY FOR AIRWAY HEALTH

www.legacyairwayhealth.ca
Diamond Health Care Centre
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Canada, V5Z 1M9
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We welcome your feedback!

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