



FILE NUMBER: 21585- 01

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Sheryl Worthing  
A/ Administrator  
Village of Burns Lake

Dear Sheryl:

Further to our discussion on December 5<sup>th</sup> in regards to the Skeena – BVLVD woodstove exchange program, I would like to highlight some of the aspects of the program, especially those pertaining to the woodstove exchange voucher and recycling of the old, non emission certified stoves. I recognize that there are many aspects to the exchange program and while this letter covers mainly the recycling component, I would be happy to meet with you and council at your earliest convenience to discuss the program as a whole.

To qualify for a \$250 rebate from the BVLVD Airshed Management Society, a resident must complete the woodstove exchange voucher. On the voucher the buyer must verify that:

- 1) the appliance being exchanged was used for heating purposes (not just any stove off the street) and does not comply with CSA / US EPA emission standards.
- 2) the appliance being purchased does comply with emission standards and has been installed.
- 3) the old appliance has been decommissioned and is no longer usable.

It is up to the buyer to have the voucher signed off at each point so that he/she can get the rebate. For step '1', a picture must be taken and submitted to the AMS for verification. This step can be signed off by a retailer, home inspector or an AMS representative.

For step '2' a picture must also be taken and submitted to the AMS. We are hoping that local inspectors can sign off when they go to verify that the stove has been installed as per local permit / building requirements. Should no local requirement exist, the woodstove retailer or an AMS representative can sign off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> voucher line. If no requirement exists and the resident installed the appliance him/herself then a picture will have to be submitted to the AMS and we will take it from there. It is the hope of the AMS that permit requirements are followed for this step and that the installation is verified by the local building inspector.

For step '3', some municipalities are using works yards as acceptable drop off points for old woodstoves. This is the preferred location for the old stoves as they are generally secure. Either the retailer or stove owner is responsible for bringing the stove to the works yard where it can be decommissioned and left in a safe, fenced-in place until it can be removed by a recycling company. Someone from the works yard is eligible to sign off on the 3<sup>rd</sup> voucher line as is the fire

chief, retailer or AMS representative. The stove must be rendered permanently useless by: removing the door, smashing the flue collar and crushing or cutting the stove so that it can not be repaired. We have been asked to remove any ash or brick liners prior to the decommissioning as they are not recyclable.

If, as is the case in Burns Lake, there is no fenced in works yard, the stoves must go to the local transfer station. We request that the stove first be brought to the works yard to be destroyed by a works yard employee prior to it going to the transfer station. Even though this adds an extra step in the process, it will help ensure that the old stoves are never put back into use. The integrity of the woodstove exchange program rests on the principal that old woodstoves are taken out of circulation and recycled; without this we are not creating a net benefit to air quality!

When all three lines are signed off on the voucher it can be mailed or delivered to the AMS along with the pictures. A \$250 cheque will then be mailed to the resident.

This year the BC Ministry of Environment has committed \$60,000 to the Skeena BVLVD 2007 woodstove changeout, \$45,000 of which is going directly to the AMS for changeout rebates. Other partners include Environment Canada, the BC Lung Association and the Northern Health Authority. To be part of our partnership we are asking that local and regional governments:

- 1) waive permit / installation / inspection fees for wood burning appliances installed as part of this program
- 2) agree to inspect newly installed wood burning appliances (for free) and be signatories to the exchange voucher
- 3) assist in the decommissioning of old wood appliances by destroying them at the works yard and allowing them to be dropped off there until they are picked up by a recycler. If the works yard is not fenced in then we ask they be destroyed at the works yard and sent to the nearest transfer station. We also ask that works yard employees and local fire chiefs be signatories to the exchange voucher.

Attached is an image with the woodstove exchange voucher (both sides). If you have any questions on this or any other air quality issues (including other woodstove exchange details), please do not hesitate to call me at 250 847 7224. Otherwise I look forward to hearing from you in regards to the above requests.

Yours truly,



Benjamin Weinstein  
Air Quality Meteorologist  
Environmental Protection, Smithers

cc: Colin Macleod, Woodstove Exchange Coordinator, Smithers

BW/bw