

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Public Works

Date: August 8, 2023

Subject: Provincial Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approves applying to the Provincial Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program.

BACKGROUND:

The District has an opportunity to apply for grant funding from the Provincial Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program where a financial incentive can be provided to households that are considering changing out inefficient appliances for CSA/EPA-approved appliances. The District previously participated in a similar program from 2013 – 2014 and provided \$1,350 in rebates.

Residents throughout the Canadian Provinces are known to have older wood stoves that produce an excessive amount of residential wood smoke. These wood stoves do not meet Canadian or United States emission standards and are, in fact, considered dirty burners that negatively contribute to the local environment, air quality and can impact local residents' health.

In some areas throughout the provinces, wood burning can account for up to 10 percent of household heating on average and there are many households that heat exclusively with wood. This can result in more wood burning in local neighbourhoods with greater potential impacts on the health and well-being of these communities. This is a problem that needs correcting in order to avoid further increases in levels of harmful wood smoke particulates in these communities and to help these communities clean up their existing problem.

Wood stove exchange programs offer a solution to the residential wood smoke problem. These programs can help reduce the amount of air pollution from wood smoke in your area by replacing old wood-burning technology with new appliances. This is a voluntary program that provides information and incentives (e.g., rebates or discounts) to encourage people to replace their old, conventional wood stove with a cleaner burning gas, wood, or pellet stove.

The provincial Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program (CWSRP), previously known as the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program (WSEP), will continue in 2023/2024 with a focus on achieving the program's three primary goals:

- Encourage the public to change out old, smoky wood stoves for cleaner heating options, including heat pumps, pellet stoves, and U.S. EPA or CSA-certified wood stoves.
- Raise awareness about good burning practices.
- Educate the public about wood smoke and its health effects.

Incentive structure for the 2023/2024 CWSRP:

An exchange from an uncertified wood stove to ^{b,c,d} :	Incentive Amount ^a (\$)		
	First Nation Communities ^e	Red-Zone Communities	All Other B.C. Communities
EPA or CSA certified wood stove	1000	500	500
Pellet Stove	1500	1000	750
Heat pump ^e	2000	1500	1000

Notes:

- Incentives for gas appliances ceased on January 1st 2023.
- The incentive for a new electric insert for all communities is \$400.
- The incentive can be combined with CleanBC incentives where applicable.
- The maximum total rebate must be less than the cost of the appliance.

Definition of Red Zone Communities

Red Zone communities are those that have exceeded the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for PM2.5 in the current reporting period (2018-2020) or at least one of the reporting periods in the past 10 years. Mackenzie is not under a Red-Zone community and if successful would receive rebates under all other B.C. communities.

Bounties for Removing Old Wood Appliances with No Exchanges

The CWSRP provides a \$300 incentive for applicants to remove existing non-EPA or CSA-certified wood appliances without committing to a new heating appliance. The incentive is per stove and limited to one stove per household. The removed wood appliance must be demolished, disabled, or recycled to claim the incentive. The information must be indicated in the proposal if Council wants to have a bounty option in the program.

Program Continuous Improvement and Education

Every community participating in the CWSRP is required to conduct a short survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand who is taking part in the program and their motivations and expectations. Ministry of Environment and B.C. Lung Association will use the survey results to guide potential future changes to the program.

Participating communities are required to ensure:

- Each person who exchanges an appliance and applies for the rebate completes the survey.
- Survey results are compiled into the annual report.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Environmental Sustainability

- The way we operate has an impact on the environment. We are committed to integrating sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) into our decision making and business practices.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Luke Thorne, Land & Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer