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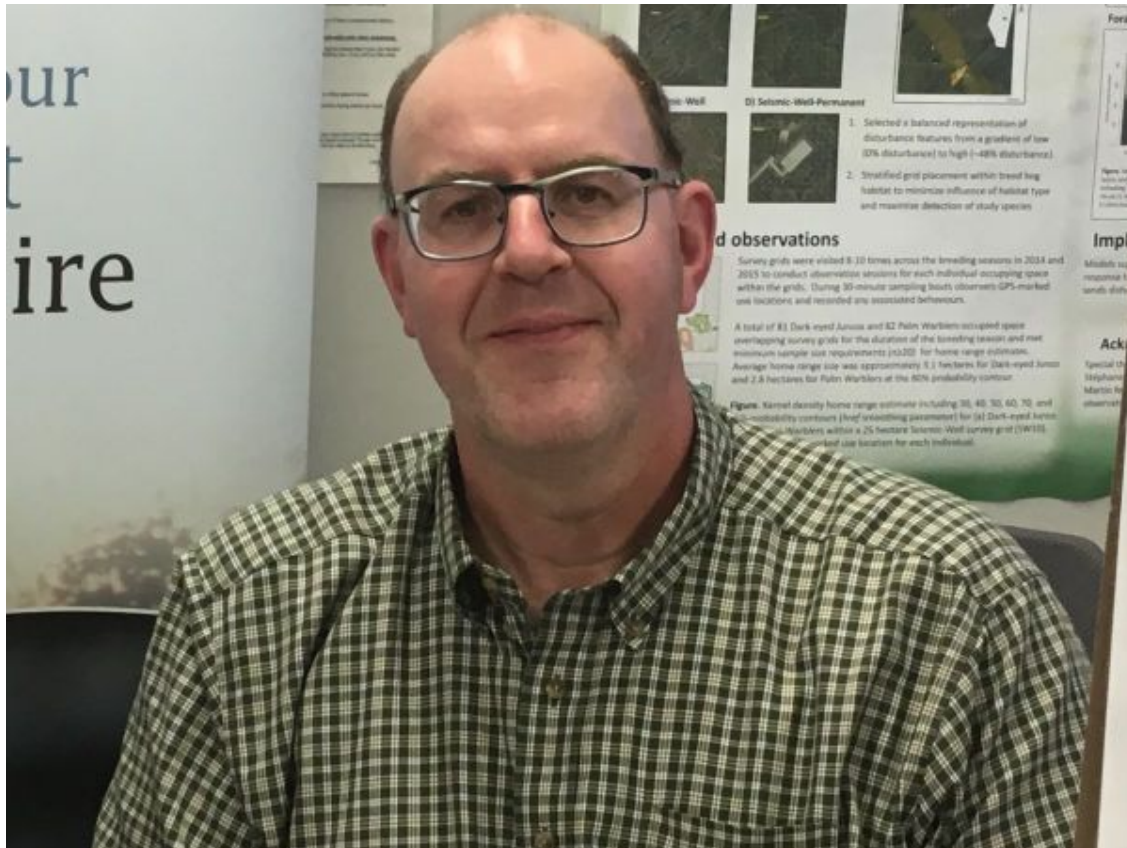


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CASA's newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, providing a quick update for board members and other interested stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think. Email your feedback to [info@awc-casa.ca](mailto:info@awc-casa.ca). Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We look forward to hearing from you!





## Director Profile

### Martin Van Olst, Environment and Climate Change Canada

For nearly a decade Martin Van Olst has been involved with the CASA board. He began with supporting his Regional Director General in their role as the Federal Government Director and attended a few board meetings as an observer. When the position of alternate director became available in 2015, Martin was a natural fit.

“My introduction to atmospheric chemistry was limited to ozone and understanding its duality as a protective layer in the stratosphere and a pollutant at the ground level.” While he is interested in a range of environmental issues that Canadians are dealing with today, including air quality, water, and wildlife issues, Martin’s first love is weather.

Raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Martin knew he wanted to pursue a career in meteorology. Inspiration came from watching someone explain cold and

warm fronts on a map on television. According to Martin, his head has been “in the clouds” ever since.

He received his education from the University of Alberta, where he studied for his Bachelor of Science with a specialization in Meteorology in the late 80s. In 1990 he would be hired by Environment Canada to work as an operational weather forecaster in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Calgary.

He followed up his degree with an Environmental Management Certificate from the University of Calgary in the early 2000s. In 2004, he moved into his position as a Senior Analyst. It's a position he is well suited for, as he considers himself an environmental generalist.

Environment and Climate Change has held a seat at the CASA board since it's inception in 1994. “I think it's appropriate to participate in a process that addresses an issue that affects Albertans and that could benefit all Canadians.”

In addition to the CASA board, he has participated as a member of the Non-Point Source Project Team, the Non-Point Source Technical Task Group, and the Non-Point Source Project Team under the Alberta Water Council (AWC). “I found that the process for addressing water and air quality issues are very similar. The members of CASA and AWC have demonstrated success at addressing the larger, point source issues. The challenge for both organizations will be to address the issues that are the responsibility of all Albertans.”

When asked what he views as CASA's significant accomplishments to date, he said “The *Flaring and Venting* and *Electricity Framework* projects were significant air quality issues in Alberta with seemingly diverse positions from the various sectors. To hear from colleagues about how well the CASA consensus model addressed issues and achieved results is a testament to the organization and its members.”

To anyone new to the CASA process, or to anyone considering volunteering to be on one of CASA's committees, working groups, or project teams, Martin encourages them to get involved. His experience was rewarding, and he enjoyed being part of the consensus decision making at a finer scale. “To hear and being open to hearing different perspectives really helped me in my day job and in my personal life, as well.”

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# Project Updates



## **Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter (ROVER) III**

The goal of the ROVER III project is to use remote sensing technology to test emissions from the in-use on-road vehicle fleet. In April 2018 the CASA board approved the ROVER III project charter, and the project was initiated a month later in May. Contracting with Opus, CASA will send remote sensors to selected sites to measure nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and particulate matter from vehicles.

In May of 2019, the project team finalized the field schedule, preferred data collection sites, and backup sites. These sites include locations in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray.

Service Alberta is currently undergoing maintenance on their registration database and there will be delays in receiving information from them. When the database is fully operational, Service Alberta will provide information on the cars that are tested, including vehicle year, model and make, fuel type, gross vehicle weight, the first three digits of the registration postal code, body style,

emissions control technology information, and mileage. No personal information will be provided. The extent of the delay is currently unknown.

In August 2019 Opus performed equipment checks and subsequently notified CASA that the checks went poorly, with an overall emissions capture of 30%. Opus is currently improving technology and is expected to provide a solution to the low capture rate by spring 2020. The good news is this date coincides with the availability of improved technology for the collection of nitrogen dioxide and ammonia data, which will provide CASA with a more robust data set to analyze.

To find out more about the ROVER III project, [visit the project team webpage](#).

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### **Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAQO)**

The AAQO project team was approved by the CASA board in December of 2016, followed by the project charter in December 2017. The goal of the AAQO project team is to provide advice to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) on the development of AAQOs that are consistent with the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The team is focusing on advice for atmospheric particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, total reduced sulfur,

and hydrogen sulfide. These substances are the focus on the AEP's work plan on ambient air quality objective development and review.

To date, the team has provided advice to AEP on AAQOs for atmospheric particulate matter, ozone, total reduced sulfur, and hydrogen sulfide. The team is working to better understand the impact of updated nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide AAQOs on compliance and approvals and are seeing input from subject matter experts on the implications of lowered AAQOs for both substances. A webinar is also being hosted for the team on what happens if NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> exceed the CAAQS, and what steps would follow.

The team originally planned to provide their advice to the CASA board for approval for nitrogen dioxide in September, and sulfur dioxide in December. Due to delays around team member availability and the provincial election, both teams are working concurrently rather than consecutively, and a request for a timeline change is expected at the December board meeting.

To learn more about the AAQO project team, [visit the project webpage](#).

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**Electricity Framework Review (EFR)**

The EFR project team began its third five-review of the Electricity Management Framework in July of 2018 after the project charter was approved the previous month in June. The team's goal is to ensure the *Emissions Management Framework for Alberta's Electricity Sector* reflects current circumstances, and the work is being completed in two phases.

- Phase One - Short-term tasks, completed in December 2018
- Phase Two - Long-term tasks, due in Q3 2019

Phase One was met with non-consensus around the issue and perspective documents were submitted along with the Phase One report. Due to the provincial election, there have been delays with project team activity. The Phase One report will be presented to the Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks when asked to do so. Phase Two is expected to pick back up in the winter or spring. The board is expecting a request to change the project charter to extended the project timeline at the December board meeting.

For more information on the EFR project, [visit the project webpage](#).

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**Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee**

In the fall of 2018, CASA held a two-day strategic planning session to discuss current challenges, opportunities, and to set priorities to help guide the next four years. From the strategic planning session, a need to review the organizational governance was identified. This review comes from a changing strategic environment and CASA's need to be responsive to it.

This committee will discuss and solve questions that emerged from the strategic planning session, consider the board's structure and role, and differentiate between the roles and expectations for the board and for management.

A call for members was circulated over the summer, and the first meeting was held in September. The committee is expected to present a term of reference to the board of directors in December.



### **Interest-Based Conflict Resolution Training**

CASA and the AWC hosted a two-day Interest-Based Conflict Resolution training course on October 8 and 9. Facilitated by the [ADR Institute of Alberta](#) and held at the Edmonton Federal Building, the training covered topics, such as; shifting from positions to interests, active listening, questioning skills, and assertive expression, to name a few.



We would like to thank all of our partners and stakeholders who joined us! Stay tuned for future training opportunities hosted by CASA and the AWC.

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## Upcoming Events

- CASA's 25 Anniversary Celebration, December 12
- Board Meeting, December 13

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