



The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (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 groups. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so please tell us what you think! Email any feedback to info@awc-casa.ca. Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We look forward to hearing from you!





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Air Currents



Director Feature: Ahmed Idriss, Utilities

Ahmed's first engagement with CASA was in 2002 when he was involved with the PM and Ozone. In 2005, he was seconded from the Government of Alberta (GoA) to be a project manager for one year with CASA. Afterwards he moved to Capital Power in 2010, where he became the alternate board member for the Utilities group of the Industry sector. Ahmed has been involved in several projects with CASA during his time with the GoA such as Flaring and Venting and Science Symposium. "My biggest contribution is *An Emissions Management Framework* for the Alberta Electricity Sector, which I co-chaired the 1st review on the Framework when I was with the GoA and participated in the following reviews representing Capital Power" says Ahmed.

"The commitment of representatives to advocate for CASA recommendations to the GoA and the to consensus approach adopted by CASA, facilitates discussion among diverse stakeholders" expresses Ahmed. He thinks that the Electricity Review Framework, the PM and Ozone, as well as the Flaring and Venting projects were

very successful in changing how we manage air quality in Alberta. These projects were adopted nationally and internationally to improve air quality.

If someone is thinking about volunteering on one of CASA's teams, Ahmed would tell them to:

- Prepare to get to know the other team members that are representing different stakeholders.
- Be patient and listen carefully; most of the team members try to find middle ground to meet everyone interests.
- The process is slow and could be repetitive, but you tend to develop a good understanding of the views of the other stakeholders.
- Be prepared not reach consensus sometimes--this does not mean that the process failed.

"The CASA process is viewed as a successful one nationally and internationally" shared Ahmed. He thinks that CASA's work has in some way improved the air quality in Alberta, and build trust among industry, NGOs, and governments.

The Zephyr

Roadside Data Collection in Full Swing

The Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter III Project Team launched in May of 2018. Since then, the project has experienced several delays that are beyond the control of the team. Recently, the project has been gaining momentum again and data collection has started.

Contractor Opus Inspection Inc. crossed the border and is collecting light-duty vehicle emissions data in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer. They are preparing to collect the heavy-duty vehicle data in September and October at various vehicle inspection stations across Alberta.

At the last CASA board meeting Opus staff provided a short presentation on the light-duty vehicle collection exercise and next steps. While Opus was in Edmonton, a CTV reporter saw the remote sensing equipment and interviewed Executive Director Andre Asselin for more details. To read the article and view the video, please go here:

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/vehicle-exhaust-in-edmonton-and-four-alberta-cities-monitored-as-part-of-study-on-air-pollution-1.5564799>



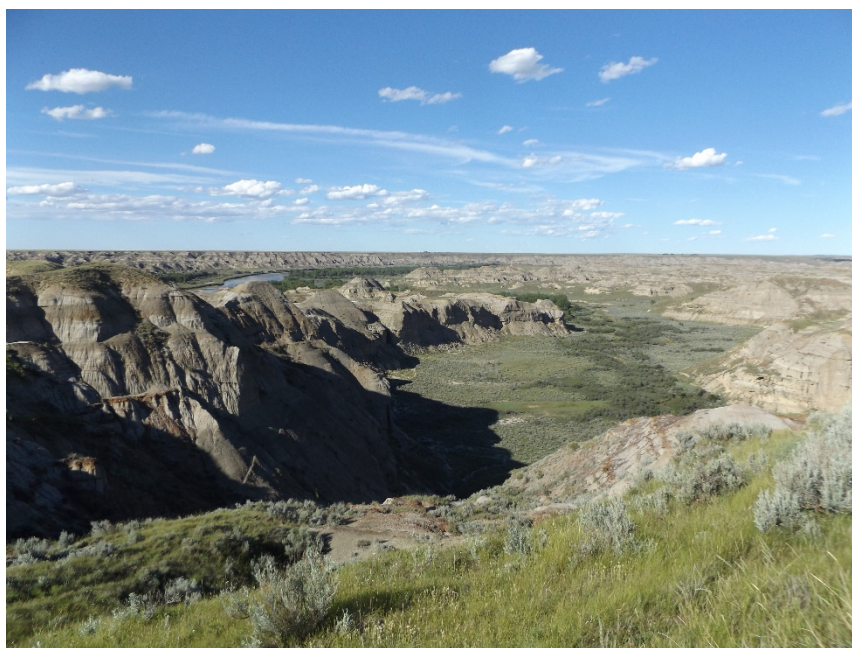
CAAQS Upcoming Webinar Series

At the September 2020 meeting, the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) Achievement project charter was approved by the CASA board. The goal of this project is to promote stakeholder awareness of, and gather cross-sector perspectives on, NO₂ CAAQS air quality issues and to identify and collaboratively develop potential approaches and solutions that have the support of implementers to manage NO_x emissions to prevent CAAQS exceedances in Alberta.

The team has completed its first objective, to develop a background document providing an overview of the NO₂ CAAQS issue in Alberta. Their next steps are to

host a webinar series to inform stakeholders on the issue. There will be one webinar roughly every week between the end of September and November 2021. Any insight gained will be used to inform subsequent workshops, where participants will identify potential approaches and solutions for reducing NOx emissions in the province in a fair and equitable way. At the most recent CASA board meeting, the project timeline was extended and the charter amended extending the project to September 2022. This additional time will allow the team to complete the webinars and subsequent workshops.

For more information about this work, please see [here](#).



IRTAQ Team Chugs Along

The Impacts of Reduced Transportation and Air Quality in Alberta (IRTAQ) project team was formed in July 2021. The goal of the team is to collaboratively develop messaging that links changes in air quality associated with measures undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The messaging would aim to generate provincial awareness of the impacts that reductions in motor vehicle transportation can have on air quality, and how individuals, governments, businesses, and other Albertans

can act to improve air quality.

The team has collected information and data related to changes in ambient air quality, reductions in vehicular traffic, and impacts of air quality changes on the Air Quality Health Index during the early stages of the pandemic in 2020. Their next step is to compile this information into a summary report and develop key messages based on the trends they uncover. At the most recent CASA board meeting, terms of reference for the project was amended, extending the project to April 2022. This additional time will allow the team to undertake in-depth analysis of the data that has been collected and teasing out key trends that will be communicated with key partners.

For more information about this work, see [here](#).

Whiffs and Puffs



Sheltering Inside May Not Protect You From The Dangers Of Wildfire Smoke

A series of studies looking at crowdsourced indoor air quality during wildfire smoke events has found that the most insidious part of wildfire smoke — microscopic particles so small they can infiltrate a person's bloodstream, exacerbating respiratory and cardiac problems — can seep through closed doors and shuttered windows, making air hazardous in homes and businesses.

The research shows, in detail for the first time, the depth of the public health risk millions are being exposed to every climate-fueled fire season. But the findings are also encouraging in that they show there are steps people can take to protect their health.

For more information about this interesting work, please see full article here: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/07/1034895514/sheltering-inside-may-not-protect-you-from-the-dangers-of-wildfire-smoke>

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- December 6, 2021 - Evening Event, Calgary
- December 7, 2021 - CASA Board Meeting, Calgary

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