



---

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) newsletter will arrive at your inbox three times per year, shortly after each board meeting, and provide a quick update for board members and other interested groups. 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!



---

In this edition:

- **Air Currents:** Director feature: Rich Smith, Agriculture
- **The Zephyr:** Roadside data collection on hiatus, CAAQS webinar series completed, and the IRTAQ Team continues its work.
- **Whiffs and Puffs:** HEPA air filters needed in Canadian classrooms.

---

## Air Currents

---



### **Director feature: Rich Smith, Agriculture**

Rich's first experience with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) occurred when he attended a CASA meeting in the mid-1990s while working with Alberta Agriculture. At the time, he had no idea he would be part of the important organization CASA is now. After joining the Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) as the Environmental Manager in 2005, Rich became a CASA board member when the then-current ABP representative stepped down.

“As an Albertan, I have always appreciated and enjoyed our clean environment and I have a strong desire to help protect the air, land, and water of this province,” shares Rich. “I understand the importance of the economy that has made us prosperous and see a need to protect it. My participation in CASA provides an opportunity to balance these priorities by discussing air quality management perspectives of other stakeholders from government, industry, and non-government organizations.” While agriculture does not face the same air quality regulatory requirements as other sectors, Rich thinks there is an impact on air quality in Alberta. “It is important for us to join with government, industry, and NGO stakeholders to address concerns of the public and manage air quality. We need public support to continue using the knowledge and technology we have to produce safe, nutritious, and high-quality food for consumers in Alberta and around the world,” he says “Our participation in organizations such as CASA is critical to maintaining that public support.”

In Rich's view, the consensus decision-making process CASA follows can be slow, cumbersome, and sometimes painful, but can produce powerful results and protect the interests of its members when consensus is not reached. He expresses CASA's work requires patience and a commitment to hearing other views and interests, but the insights gained in the process and the sense of achievement from reaching collaborative, consensus decisions are very rewarding.

“I think the most significant accomplishment of CASA to date has been sustaining a strong multi-stakeholder partnership that provides sound and timely advice on air quality management in Alberta. CASA has provided valuable recommendations in areas of electricity generation, flaring and venting from oil and gas installations, management of emissions from confined feeding operations, odour management, non-point source emissions, and ambient air quality objectives,” Rich expresses.

“I believe CASA will play a strong role in guiding air quality management through the ongoing changes in electrical generation in this province.”

---

## The Zephyr

---

### **Roadside data collection on hiatus**

The Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter III Project Team launched in May 2018. Since then, the project has experienced several delays beyond the control of the team. The project is gaining momentum again and data collection is planned for this spring.

In fall 2021, contractor Opus Inspection Inc. collected light-duty vehicle emissions data in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer. At a recent CASA board meeting Opus staff provided a short presentation on the light-duty vehicle collection exercise and next steps. Opus had planned to collect heavy-duty vehicle data at various vehicle inspection stations across Alberta following initial data collection. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 related ramifications, the field season has been postponed to spring 2022.



---

## CAAQS webinar series completed

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, NO<sub>2</sub> CAAQS air quality issues. The project also identifies and collaboratively develops potential approaches and solutions with the support of implementers to manage NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to prevent CAAQS exceedances in Alberta.

The team completed a background document in September 2021 which provided an overview of the NO<sub>2</sub> CAAQS issue in Alberta, Alberta's Air Management System, data and information on NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in Alberta, and experience from outside the province to inform approaches and solutions. Between September and December 2021, a series of eight webinars were held to inform stakeholders who can contribute meaningful solutions to CAAQS implementation. The webinar content was delivered by more than 30 expert speakers from a range of sectors and geographies, and session attendance

exceeded 200 people. The feedback obtained from these valuable sessions will be used by the team to develop workshops that will generate ideas for approaches and solutions to reduce emissions to meet CAAQS. The webinar proceedings are being polished and should be completed by early spring. For more information about this work, please see [here](#).

---



## **IRTAQ Team continues its work**

The Impacts of Reduced Transportation and Air Quality in Alberta (IRTAQ) Project Team was formed in July 2021. The team’s goal 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 reductions in motor vehicle transportation can have, and how individuals, governments, businesses, and other Albertans can act to improve air quality.

The team has finished gathering information and data related to changes in

ambient air quality, reductions in vehicular traffic, and potential health impacts during the early stages of the pandemic in 2020. They have compiled the data and information into a summary report, and are developing key messages based on its outcomes, as well as creating a set of actions Albertans can undertake to reduce emissions. The next steps for their work include communicating and refining key messages with target audiences and preparing the final report. This work is anticipated to wrap up by April 2022.

---

## Whiffs and Puffs

---

### **HEPA air filters needed in Canadian classrooms**

With the pandemic unfolding, CASA continues to stay in the loop of indoor and outdoor air quality innovations to reduce its spread.

A recent article by the CBC shared that HEPA-filtered air purifiers can reduce the concentration of viruses in air by capturing particles. According to the article, the recent, highly infectious Omicron variant has propelled the need to have enhanced air quality in schools. With kids returning to in-person learning, this is a pressing need.

Fresh Air Schools Alberta was mentioned as one organization in the article, urging the province to provide support for schools to adopt airborne mitigation strategies, such as HEPA filters or other standalone filtration units, in classrooms. "It's something that benefits the people in the space regardless of what you're using it for. Because better air quality is better for learning. It's better for everybody's health," said Fresh Air Schools Alberta advocate Amanda Hu.

For more information about this please see full article here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/hepa-filter-classrooms-1.6304311>

#### Upcoming Events and Meetings

- April 12, 2022 - Board meeting (Edmonton)
- September 14, 2022 - Field Tour and Dinner (Calgary)
- September 15, 2022 - Board meeting (Calgary)
- December 7, 2022 - Evening event (Edmonton)
- December 8, 2022 - Board meeting (Edmonton)

[Subscribe!](#)



Copyright © 2022

Clean Air Strategic Alliance All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address is:**

[info@cas-a.ca](mailto:info@cas-a.ca)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



