



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. Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel. We look forward to hearing from you.



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- **Whiffs and Puffs:** Study finds link between air pollution and substance use disorder

The Zephyr

Roadside data collection back in full swing

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 summer.

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 plans to

collect heavy-duty vehicle data at various vehicle inspection stations across Alberta following initial data collection. Conversations with Opus are underway to resume the 2022 data collection with a planned June target date.



IRTAQ Team wraps up

The Impacts of Reduced Transportation and Air Quality in Alberta (IRTAQ) Project Team was formed in July 2021. The team's goal was to collaboratively develop messaging that links changes in air quality associated with measures undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The messaging aims 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.

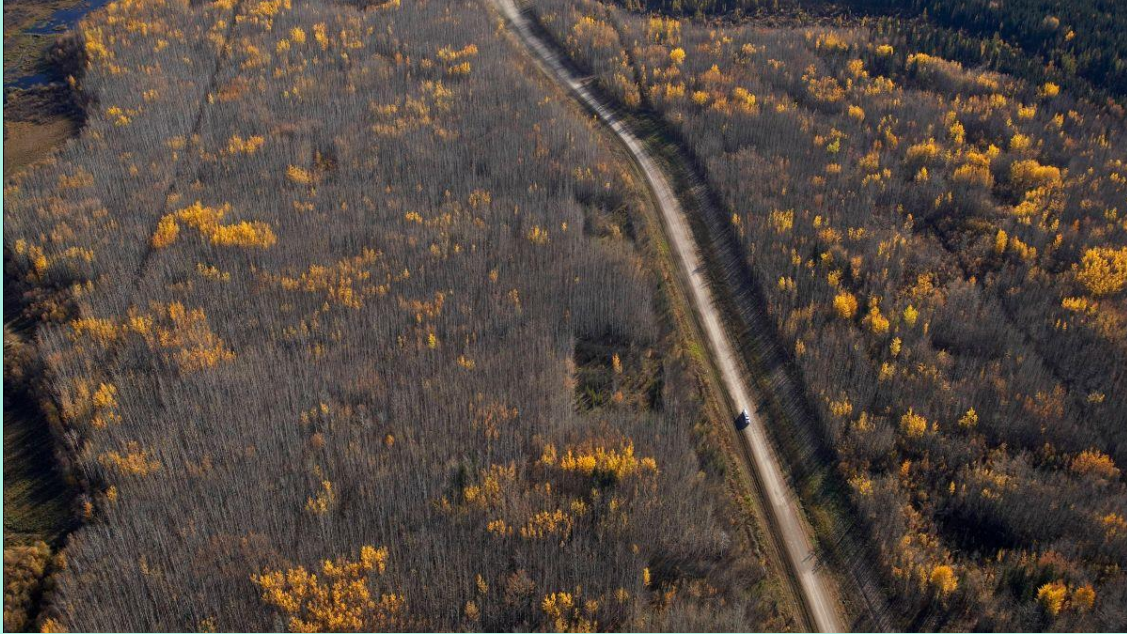
The final report, summary document, and communications plan for this work were approved by the CASA board at their April meeting. The next steps for those documents are editing, design, and layout, followed by public release.

A fact sheet that summarizes the project and its outcomes, including the messaging, is also being prepared. The fact sheet will be available prior to public release of the other documents to allow us and our partners to share the information and results sooner!

New work kicks off on Dust Management

Based on the 2014 Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory, dust from construction operations, unpaved roads, and paved roads for example emit approximately 80% of the primary particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in the province. While secondary particulate matter remains a major regional contributor to ambient PM_{2.5}, dust is one of the contributors to particulate matter levels measured at Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards monitoring stations across the province. This is applicable to multiple sectors. There is insufficient guidance on overall dust management in Alberta; despite widespread dust emissions, there is no formal and consolidated best practices guide for reference.

A working group was formally launched at the April CASA board meeting to scope a project charter for a future project team to execute. A call for members was issued in March and several names were collected for the working group. Their first meeting was anticipated for May.



Whiffs and Puffs

Study finds link between air pollution and substance use disorder

CASA staff strives to keep current on recent studies related to air quality management. A recent study reveals a link between air pollution and increased numbers of hospitalizations for substance use disorders in Edmonton.

The study examined the period between April 1, 1998, and March 31, 2002. Mieczysław Szyszkowicz of Health Canada's Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau discovered that patients exposed to carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter were more likely to be hospitalized for substance use disorders. As paraphrased from the article, he wrote "few studies in the literature report on air pollution impacts on substance abuse...there is evidence that exposure to air pollution affects the brain and can alter

behaviour.”

For more information about this, please see the full article here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-study-air-pollution-associated-substance-use-disorder-1.6409442>

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- 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)

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