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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](mailto: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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- **The Zephyr:** Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter III Project Team keeps working, Electricity Framework Review Project Team report gets the thumbs up, Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards Project Team finalizing backgrounder, and new work kicks off

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## Air Currents

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### **Director Feature: Don McCrimmon, Oil and Gas**

Don McCrimmon is the alternate director for CASA's Oil and Gas Large Producers sector. As manager of the air file at the [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers](#), he represents Canada's large upstream oil and gas operators at a variety of multi-stakeholder tables, including CASA.

"By participating on CASA, it allows me to work with an array of stakeholder groups", shares Don. He believes that this opportunity lets him hear the diversity of perspectives and highlight the challenges and opportunities for air quality management from the upstream oil and gas industry. The upstream oil and gas industry plays a major role in Alberta's economy; they strive to maintain a presence in all tables (i.e., such as CASA's table) where policies are discussed that could potentially impact the industry.

Don thinks that consensus decision-making is the preferred method of decision making when working at a multi-stakeholder table. "Consensus building is based on understanding interests of everyone in the group" says Don. If someone was thinking about volunteering on one of CASA's teams, Don would advise them to take the time to listen to, and understand, other stakeholder's perspectives.

To date, Don thinks that the *Recommendations to Reduce Non-Point Source Air Emissions in Alberta* report and work has been CASA's most significant accomplishment. In the next 10 years, Don hope to see continued development of efficient, environmental outcomes-based policy and regulatory approaches to ensure Albertans have clean air.

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# The Zephyr

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## **ROVER III Project Team keeps working**

The Roadside Optical Vehicle Emissions Reporter (ROVER) III Project Team launched in May of 2018. Since its launch, the project has experienced several delays that are beyond the control of the team.

The field season is tentatively being planned for spring or summer of 2021. Staff and contractor Opus are working on permitting sites and applying for work permits, among other logistics. The exact timing of the field season will be dependent on obtaining a quarantine exemption (for Opus as they are based in the United States) from the Canadian Border Services and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Project managers have confirmed the fields of information to be provided by Service Alberta, and an appointment to test out the web platform to be used for uploading data will be arranged in the near future. Once this is running, the data from the pilot can be processed.

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



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## **EFR Project Team report gets the thumbs up**

The Electricity Framework Review project charter was approved by the board in June of 2018. This was the third five-year review that has been done by CASA, with the goal to ensure the [Emissions Management Framework](#) for Alberta's Electricity Sector reflects current circumstances in the province.

At the April board meeting, the team presented eight consensus recommendations to the board for approval. They were approved by members, along with the communications plan, and the project team was disbanded.

The report is undergoing a copy and style review by an editor. Following this process, the report will be passed to a graphic designer for design and layout, before it is publicly released later this year.

For more information, visit the [EFR Project Team Webpage](#).

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## **CAAQS Project Team finalizing backgrounder**

At the September 2020 meeting, the 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 and to identify and collaboratively develop potential approaches and solutions that have the support of implementers to manage NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to prevent CAAQS exceedances in Alberta.

The project team is nearing completion of a comprehensive background document which provides context on the NO<sub>2</sub> issue to facilitate future discussions on options and approaches to reduce NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Alberta, in order to meet the national NO<sub>2</sub> CAAQS. Next, the team will plan and hold a webinar series with the aim of developing some common understanding on the key elements of the issue and to outline some of the past experiences in Alberta and elsewhere in addressing this type of issue. The goal is to develop a base of informed stakeholders who can subsequently work together to develop meaningful solutions to the CAAQS NO<sub>2</sub> implementation in Alberta.

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

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## **New work kicks off**

At the April board meeting, CASA's members discussed a statement of opportunity (SoO) that was submitted for consideration. Seeing value in this work, the board established a working group to draft terms of reference (ToR) for a subsequent project team to execute. This work would focus on examining the potential impacts of changes in consumer transportation on air quality due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the working group has met once in April to review the SoO that was submitted to the board. They discussed information from the SoO can be included in the ToR, and any modifications that would be required. Initial discussions resulted in several clarifications and additions to the objectives and key tasks but no changes to the context, strategic intent (goal), budget, or membership. The working group estimates that the project could be completed by the September 2021 CASA board meeting.

For more information about this work, please contact staff.

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# Whiffs and Puffs

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## Coronavirus and Air Pollution

We know that air pollution can cause health problems, like heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and high blood pressure, that have been identified as the pre-existing medical conditions that raise the chances of death from COVID-19 infection. Emerging research, including a study from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, finds that breathing more polluted air over many years may itself worsen the effects of COVID-19.

The Harvard Chan study led by Xiao Wu and Rachel Nethery and senior author Francesca Dominici found an association between air pollution over many years with an 11% increase in mortality from COVID-19 infection for every 1 microgram/cubic meter increase in air pollution (for comparison, many Americans breathe air with 8 micrograms/cubic meter of particulate matter). The Harvard study is one of several that suggest air pollution is affecting COVID-19 mortality. Researchers analyzing 120 cities in China found a significant relationship between air pollution and COVID-19 infection, and of the coronavirus deaths across 66 regions in Italy, Spain, France and Germany, 78% of them occurred in five of the

most polluted regions. There's also evidence from previous outbreaks like SARS, which was also a coronavirus, as well as many other respiratory infections including influenza, that breathing more polluted air increased risks of death.

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

#### Upcoming Events and Meetings

- September 14, 2021 - CASA Board Meeting, Edmonton
- December 6, 2021 - Evening Event, Calgary
- December 7, 2021 - CASA Board Meeting, Calgary

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