

## **WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

This Spring is the last opportunity for homeowners to participate in the Skeena - BVLD Woodstove Exchange Program.

In an effort to clean up the air in Northern B.C., the Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society (BVL DAMS) is offering a \$250 incentive to residents who trade in their old belchers and purchase new high-efficiency wood or pellet stoves.

"Like everything else, woodstove technology has improved in leaps and bounds over the past 20 years," said Woodstove Exchange Coordinator Colin Macleod. "These new wood and pellet stoves get a lot more heat out of each piece of wood and can drastically reduce the smoke coming out your chimney."

The program boundaries have recently expanded for the final season and now encompass the entire Regional Districts of Kitimat - Stikine and Bulkley - Nechako. So, residents from Kitimat and Stewart to Vanderhoof and Fort St. James are now eligible to take part in the program.

In addition to the \$250 being offered by the AMS, municipalities in the region have also jumped on board.

- The Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa are both offering rebates of \$500;
- There are \$300 rebates being given to residents by the District of Houston;
- The City of Terrace is kicking in \$100;
- The Regional District of Kitimat Stikine is offering \$50;
- There is also a \$375 rebate through the EcoAction Home Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program.

And, during the months of March and April, participating retailers will also be offering additional \$150 rebates - that's a potential total savings of \$400 - \$900!

Since the program began in late 2006, almost 500 stoves have been exchanged, translating to a reduction of more than 45 tonnes of harmful pm2.5 particulate, and saving almost 65 logging truck loads of wood.

This Spring, the AMS will also be hosting clean burning workshops across the region.

"No matter how long you've been burning with wood, coming out to a Burn-it-Smart workshop will provide you with all sorts of tips to get more out of your woodstove and to minimize the smoke in your neighbourhood," said Macleod. "And we'll have some great door prizes to give away."

Switching out your old belcher for a new energy efficient model is not just about saving money.

- **Help clean up the air in your neighbourhood and in your home.** Emission-certified stoves result in emission reductions of 70- 90 per cent compared to uncertified stoves.

- **Reduce annual fuel and firewood needs.** New, high-efficiency woodstoves use up to 1/3 less wood, which saves you time and money. High efficiency appliances that use other fuels, such as pellets, also qualify for the program.

- **Support community goals of cleaner air by 2010.** The Town of Smithers, Village of Burns Lake, District of Houston and City of Terrace have all adopted bylaws to reduce emissions for wood burning appliances.

- **Protect your home and your family.** Clean burning stoves greatly reduce risks of chimney fires. And by burning less wood, your new high-efficiency stove may qualify as a secondary heat source, which may reduce your insurance costs.

**So use less wood and be good to your 'hood!**

For more information, contact program coordinator Colin Macleod at 250-847-7256, toll-free at 1-888-334-0335, email [Colin.Macleod@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Macleod@gov.bc.ca) or visit [www.cleanairplan.ca](http://www.cleanairplan.ca).