

REVIEW OF METRO VANCOUVER FIREPLACE BAN PROPOSAL

Metro's proposal: prohibit burning from open hearth fireplaces by 2025 in urban areas

Hearth retrofit cost: at least \$1,500, per Hearth, Barbecue and Patio Assoc of Canada (CBC).

Woodsmoke contains fine particulate matter (PM2.5), measured in micrograms / cubic metre (µg/m3) for (1) annual average, and (2) annual peak 24-hour concentrations.

Metro objectives (in µg/m3): 25 for annual; 8 for 24-hour (rising to 6 as “aspirational target”)

Canadian national standards: 28 for annual; 10 for 24-hour

Seasonal fireplace contribution to PM2.5 in Metro: no data, no estimate provided

Metro's latest PM2.5 data: Burnaby South 14 annual; 6.2 24-hour (2014)

Province's latest PM2.5 data: Burnaby South 15 annual; 5.9 24-hour (2014-16)

Compare Montreal: reductions from 29 to 24 and 10.6 to 9.4 over 2009-2015 (no hearth ban)

Compare internationally: Vancouver well ahead of all other listed cities

Within Metro: residential burning contributes most in rural, not urban areas

Which locations in Metro are of real concern to its planners? not disclosed

New Westminister data: 2009-10 study (24-hour) shows: 4 winter; 8-9 summer

Seasonality: Metro acknowledges PM2.5 always peaks in the summer (forest fires) and declines in winter (despite home wood burning)

Metro's expected benefit from open hearth ban in New Westminister? unable to say

Metro's data on actual fireplace usage in New Westminister or elsewhere? unable to say

Metro's current program: encourage clean burning practices (seasoned wood, no junk)

Policy alternatives to open hearth ban? Metro has not suggested any -- despite example of effective voluntary compliance in (for example) seasonal watering restrictions

Question: is it fair to require New Westminister occasional fireplace users to install fireplace inserts, for the apparent purpose of reducing heavy usage of wood stoves for constant home heating in other locations within Metro?

Question: why is Metro not targeting diesel PM2.5 (highly carcinogenic) and road dust?