

## **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 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for (1) annual average, and (2) annual peak 24-hour concentrations.

**Metro objectives** (in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ): 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 lastest 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 Westminster 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 Westminster?** unable to say

**Metro's data on actual fireplace usage in New Westminster 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 Westminster 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?