



Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society

Our Mission: Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Kamloops by promoting health education and science-based interventions that result in maintaining and improving the environment.

c/o 311 Columbia Street, Kamloops, BC V2C 2T1

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Dr. Bonnie Henry
Deputy Provincial Health Officer
bonnie.henry.MLA@leg.bc.ca

16 August 2017

Dear Dr. Henry:

The City of Kamloops has been experiencing an unprecedented series of forest fire caused smoke events since 1 July of this year. The event that began 31 July and ended 12 August produced hourly concentrations as high as 364 µg/m³ at the Aberdeen Monitoring Station in Kamloops and 862 µg/m³ at the downtown Federal Building Monitoring Station. During that event the BC Air Quality Objective of a maximum daily average of 25 µg/m³ was far exceeded during the entire period.

KPHES will shortly be releasing a review of the air quality Kamloops has been experiencing since 1 July. I will ensure that you receive a copy when it is available. We also have a survey open and ongoing of current health impacts intending to sample our community from BC Day weekend to Labour Day weekend. (appending link to an interim report below)

Yesterday, local media ran sound bites from your discussion of the health impacts of the smoke on residents of Kamloops. The take away was that there would be no long term health impacts for the vast majority of the population. Quotes from your interview are available on the Radio NL Facebook page. You say: "We don't expect to have long term health effects from this type of exposure like you would, for example, with ongoing issues with air pollution in a city like Beijing."

The Radio NL summary of your interview is "She says any health impacts will be short term and healthy or not symptoms should vanish once the fresh air returns with no long term impact."

The Kamloops Physicians for a healthy Environment Society feels that the medical literature has spoken clearly about the dangers of forest fire smoke and high short term air pollution exposure on the health of individuals. We would like to bring to your attention four, of many, papers related to this issue. Three can be accessed through the URLs at the end of this letter and one is attached as a Dropbox linked PDF document.

KPHES is requesting that the Office of the Provincial Health Officer undertake a serious review of the impact of forest fire smoke on the health of people in the interior of the province and that public statements by your office reflect concerns for the well-being of people experiencing many weeks of high smoke concentrations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Calder
on behalf of
Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society

cc: **Adrian Dix, Minister of Health**
adrian.dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca

URLs to Access Journal papers:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22032107>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23356966>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27082891>

Dropbox linked PDF documents:

[Ambient Air Quality and Stroke - pdf](#)
[Survey Monkey Interim Report 2017-08-16](#)

