

June 24, 2014

Letter to the editor:

**The Kamloops This Week Headline Was Misleading: Our Data are Not Wrong**

Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society has worked hard over the last several months to produce reliable data to help further educate our friends and neighbours about the state of our air. We were dismayed when the article by Andrea Klassen on June 23 had a headline indicating our data are misleading. They are not. It was the headline that was misleading.

We have been misrepresented in Kamloops This Week, by the suggestion that we said particulate matter from Highland Valley Copper is blowing directly into Kamloops. What we are saying is that the combined footprint of Ajax and New Gold together will approximately be as big as Highland Valley Copper. This could place the new number two Canadian emitter of PM2.5 right next door.

Indeed the older TEOM instruments produced lower readings for PM2.5 than the newer BAM instruments. It is because of this change in instruments that we only reported for 2011, 2012 and 2013. These are years for which complete measurements were made at the same location with the same instrument (BAM). It's difficult to see how KPHEs could be criticized for leaving out 2010 data when this year had data from different instruments and changing locations.

Our statistical analysis, by two TRU professors, shows that the PM2.5 in 2013 was significantly higher than that in 2012 and significantly higher than that in 2011, at the 95% confidence level. This is a fact. It is over the B.C. Guideline. This is a fact. The B.C. Lung Association has calculated the same numbers. This is another pesky fact. We will continue to stand behind the integrity of our data and continue to advocate for the health of the citizens of Kamloops, and that, is our final pesky fact.

Please see our website: [www.kphe.ca](http://www.kphe.ca) for a full response to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> article.

**Dr. T. Burgmann & Dr. J Calder**

*on behalf of*

***Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society***