



MEMORANDUM

TO: ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
FROM: JAMES VAN HEMERT, CONSULTING TOWN PLANNER
SUBJECT: COWICHAN REGIONAL AIRSHED ROUNDTABLE NOTES--JANUARY 2023 MEETING
DATE: 2/14/2023

To complement the official synopsis prepared by Cindy Lise, I provide a few of my notes taken during the meeting, which may not be fully reflected in the synopsis.

Regarding the 'Updated Air Quality Summary- How are we doing over time?'

- Very interesting data!
- BC air quality network online
- 20 purple air monitors in Cowichan valley
- Progress last 2 years for the Georgia Strait Air Zone...in orange now rather than red in Duncan
- Winter time levels of 2.5 pm **decreasing.**
- **Spikes all due to wildfire, most striking**
- When wildfires removed significant decrease in 2.5 ppm
- **Meeting BC AQC's since 2018**
- Exceedance of standards due to wildfires
- Acknowledged traffic contribution but biggest source is woodburning

Ian Morrison, Electoral Area F Director spoke out in favour of wood stoves as the most affordable way for most people. Focus on old stoves only would make biggest difference....better bang for our buck. He also noted that with heat pumps people end up in second tier hydro rates....renters and lower income people can't afford this.

The synopsis state that I said the Town of Lake Cowichan has implemented an anti-outdoor burning ban (as if we have just caught up with the modern era), however, what I said was that the Town has a bylaw that bans outdoor burning.