

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO AND MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES
LAUNCH 2013 WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The Regional District of Nanaimo, in partnership with the member municipalities of Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville and Qualicum Beach is pleased to be launching a region-wide Woodstove Exchange and Outreach Program. This program is made possible by funding from the Province and the BC Lung Association, with support from the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange.

The funding allows the regional partners to offer residents a \$250 rebate to replace an existing wood burning appliance with a new high-efficiency wood stove, insert, pellet stove or gas stove/fireplace purchased after the program start date of Jan. 18, 2013 while incentives last.

"The RDN Board is pleased to continue the popular woodstove exchange program in 2013," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. "This Program supports several objectives of the RDN Board's commitment to sustainability, including the protection of local air quality. This funding ensures that residents across the region can continue to meet their home heating needs by using abundant natural resources."

Wood smoke contains tiny particles called particulate matter (PM). Particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or less in diameter, called PM2.5, is small enough to be breathed into the deepest parts of the lungs. It is associated with a variety of health problems, from a runny nose and coughing, to bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, heart disease and even premature death. New high-efficiency wood stoves are proven to burn one-third less wood, reduce emissions by up to 70 per cent and significantly reduce the risk of chimney fires.

In January and February the RDN will host a series of wood heating workshops with a Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT)-certified professional. Interested residents will be able to learn how to maximize efficiency and minimize pollution when using their wood burning appliances.

For more information about the Woodstove Exchange and Outreach Program or about the upcoming workshop series, call 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798. Information is also available by visiting www.rdnrebates.ca or by visiting the RDN [Facebook](#) page or [Twitter](#) feed.

-30-

Contact: Ting Pan
Sustainability Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo
250 390 6510 or 250 954 3798