

[Branch and Address]

General Manager [or loans manager]

[Date]

Dear [name],



## **Introducing the Skeena – Bulkley Valley Woodstove Exchange Program**

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Environment and the Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society have teamed up to coordinate the Skeena-Bulkley Valley Woodstove Exchange Program. A woodstove exchange program was identified within our BVLD Airshed Management Plan as a key component of our overall strategy to improve the air quality within our valleys. We are requesting that the [local community] Credit Union join us as a partner in this endeavour to make our communities even better places to live, work and breathe.

Our goal is to improve air quality within the Skeena and Bulkley Valley air corridor by encouraging residents to exchange old smoky wood stoves for newer EPA-certified clean burning wood stoves which are proven to burn 1/3 less wood and reduce emissions by up to 90%.

We learned a great deal from other exchange programs and have researched how to make this Exchange even better. This time around we will have a longer lead in time, more community involvement and partnerships, and much greater incentives and benefits. In order to hasten the rates of exchange, both the Town of Smithers and the District of Houston have recently passed by-laws requiring that all non-certified wood burning appliances be replaced or removed by December 31, 2010. Burns Lake is considering similar action.

As for economic incentives, in addition to the 15% discount that local retailers and stove manufacturers offered in 2004, residents who upgrade to a low emission appliance will also receive a \$250 cash rebate from the BVLD Airshed Society. We want as many residents as possible to make the switch, and are researching additional ways to increase incentives and to remove barriers.

We are asking that the [local community] Credit Union participates by offering low-interest loans within [community] and the surrounding area to applicants that qualify under the program for the purchase and installation of low emission appliances. For example, the Bulkley Valley Credit Union is offering program participants loans of up to \$5000 at prime +0% payable over up to three years.

We will provide a list of participating retailers and proof of purchase of certified appliances. We are anticipating great success with this program and hope to be able to broaden our scope in subsequent years to include your entire Skeena service area.

Thank you for your interest and looking forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,

Colin Macleod, Skeena – BVLD Woodstove Exchange Program Coordinator  
Ministry of Environment and BVLD Airshed Management Society

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bulkley valley - lakes district  
airshed management society