

His Worship Mayor Lyn Hall and Council Prince George City Hall 1100 Patricia Blvd. Prince George, British Columbia V2L 3V9

February 16, 2021

Re: Follow up to presentation of "Release of Air Emissions Inventory and Modelling Report", February 8, 2021.

Mayor Lyn Hall and Council,

Thank you for receiving the presentation on Monday, February 8, 2021 from Dr. Peter Jackson, Brayden Nilson and Gail Roth to the Regular Council Meeting, entitled "Release of Air Emissions Inventory and Modelling Report". The Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR) is grateful for the contributions of this research to our knowledge and understanding of the pollutant sources and their relative contributions to our airshed.

I also want to thank Councillors Frizzell, Samson, and Ramsey for your thoughtful questions about the results of the study. Several of your questions related to the application of the research findings to air quality management in the airshed, with specific reference to PGAIR's strategic planning process. I want to take the opportunity to expand on the information provided after the presentation.

Substantial airshed management efforts by the community over the past 20 years have yielded some positive results. While the study may be reassuring that some of Prince George's neighbourhoods are estimated to be below Provincial objectives for PM2.5, several neighbourhoods border or exceed the objectives, including the downtown core. In either case, even low levels of pollution can affect some individuals. For this reason, air quality objectives should be viewed as an upper limit, not goal line.

PGAIR is operating in the final year of its 5-year 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, while concurrently working to develop a new 5-year plan. The results of the *Air Emissions Inventory and Modelling* study represent a significant input to the planning process and will help to inform the setting of meaningful air quality targets. The study points to specific sectors where progress on reducing PM2.5 has been more successful, and conversely, where further work is needed. Key priority actions can then be developed to advance air pollution reductions.

We would welcome the opportunity to present the 2022-2026 5-year Strategic Plan once finalized, and are available to answer any further questions. We continue to work closely with the City of Prince George and all of the members of the roundtable to continuously improve local air quality in a collaborative and consensus-driven manner. The ongoing commitment of its members and the collaborative nature of the roundtable are key to its success.

Sincerely,

Kim Menounos, Manager, PGAIR

CC:

Dr. Peter Jackson, Professor, University of Northern British Columbia Brayden Nilson, Candidate for Master of Science, UNBC Gail Roth, Air Quality Meteorologist, and PGAIR Director for ENV, British Columbia Andrea Byrne, PGAIR Director for City of Prince George