



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-
SIMILKAMEEN
PRESS RELEASE
February 26, 2010**

**Burn Smart, Burn Clean and Burn Without Smoke!
Wood Stove Change Out Program Savings Return**

Over the next two months many Okanagan and Similkameen residents will save money and reduce air pollution.

Replace old wood burning stoves or wood inserts with new, clean burning high efficient units from any participating retailer. Take advantage of the savings offered during the 10th annual 'Great Okanagan-Similkameen Wood Stove Change Out Program'.

The Regional Air Quality program gives consumers a \$250 rebate (funding is limited) when they purchase a new EPA/CSA emission-approved wood, gas, pellet or electric appliance to replace their old appliance.

Participating manufacturers, distributors and retailers also offer a minimum rebate of \$150 off suggested MRP of new EPA/CSA approved replacement appliances. Consumers receive the rebate when they surrender their old wood burning appliance for recycling. Retailers have program information and documentation to show the emission ratings of all new stoves, which can burn up to 90% cleaner than old ones.

The program has made a significant difference in our air quality. Over the past nine years, 1,256 old wood burning appliances have been traded out. As a result, approximately 450 tonnes of smoke particulates have been kept out of our airshed. That equates to 15,000 fewer cords of wood burned. Lined up end to end that would be the length of 363 football fields!

To learn more about smart wood heating and EPA stoves, program information and a list of participating retailers go to the RDOS website www.rdos.bc.ca click on air quality, then wood heating.

You can also obtain information by dropping by the RDOS office at 101 Martin St. in Penticton, or calling the RDOS toll free at 1.877.610.3737 or 250.490.4212.

The *Wood Stove Change Out* is a clean air program of the Central Okanagan, North Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen regional districts and is a limited time offer ending April 30th, 2010.



D. Ashton
RDOS Board Chair

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