



# Lavington Life Newsletter

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## Progress on Lavington Air Quality Plan

Lavington LIFE along with Tolko Industries, the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Pinnacle Renewable Energy are in the process of formulating an Air Quality Plan for our area. In the last few months School District #22 has also decided to participate - this is welcome news. The District of Coldstream has decided to sit as an observer on this process. The LIFE Society is disappointed that the District is not a full member, since it has important responsibilities for open burning, road transport, and vehicle idling. BC MOE has hired a facilitator to assist in developing this Plan, and there are numerous other examples from other BC communities. The next steps in the planning process are to develop goals, objectives, indicators and specific actions. LIFE looks forward to other participants joining the planning process and for clear and specific actions to be implemented. Stay tuned for further news on this important initiative for our area.

comments and questions. We are concerned with a number of things with the amendment application. Firstly, we question why MOE has allowed the company to operate for over a year without the hammer mill bag filter required in the permit. Secondly, it is now clear that the dryer systems, which both MOE and Pinnacle touted as “best available technology”, are not without significant performance and safety issues. Thirdly, we question why the actual meteorological data from the Lavington monitoring location were not used in the modelling of this change. Fourthly, we have called for a health risk assessment associated with emissions of volatile organic compounds from this facility. Our last objection is use of higher stacks and increased air volumes to simply dilute significantly more particulate matter in our valley. Coldstream Council has asked for air quality monitoring to continue and for the permit discharge limit to be left as is. LIFE concurs with this request and will monitor the decision of MOE on this application, and may file an appeal.

## Pinnacle Applies for Permit Amendment

Pinnacle Pellet Lavington has applied to BC MOE seeking an amendment to its air discharge permit. Pinnacle is seeking approval to: delete the requirement for one bag filter, increase its air volume discharges, and increase its actual particulate loadings by over 75% (2.60 kg per hour increasing to 4.57 kg per hour). The company states that these changes are required due to issues in its dryers causing tar build up and fire risk. Lavington’s LIFE group provided a letter of

## MOE to Issue Air Quality Report

The MOE is working on a report on data from the Lavington Baptist Church ambient air monitoring station. This station has provided data on concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5) at the church location for over 18 months. MOE has said the report should be released in the next month or so. Early data analysis indicates that the annual average PM2.5 level is approximately 6.2 micrograms per cubic meter. This is below the Air Quality Objective of 8.0 set by MOE & above the...

planning objective of 6.0 adopted by MOE. Air quality in the winter months is significantly worse than during the summer, mainly due to inversions and poor mixing during the winter. The contribution of household wood stoves may also be a factor in the winter but the quantity of these emissions has yet to be reliably estimated. The data also shows numerous hourly spikes of PM2.5 exceeding 20 to 30 ug/m3. Lavington LIFE's review of the health literature has confirmed that there is no threshold for damaging effects of PM2.5. An air quality advisory issued in February 2017 was determined to be associated with unauthorized open burning at the Gorman Bros. pole facility on Dure Meadow Road. MOE have advised that compliance action has been taken. We note that negative health effects have been identified at levels of PM2.5 less than 6.0, particularly in vulnerable populations such as children, people with pulmonary disease, and the elderly. It is our position that we should continue to strive to improve our air quality, in particular to identify and control the source of the short-term peaks in PM2.5. MOE also needs to measure volatile organic compounds in the air around this facility, and undertake a health assessment of these substances. We look forward to MOE's report and further action. Lavington air quality data is available to the public at the MOE website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/map/station.html#E304590>

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## Filing a Complaint

It is important to report your concern promptly with correct, factual information... we may be able to help. If complaints are not received, it is assumed there is no problem. You can report concerns regarding noise, odour, dust or other pollution to the following agencies:

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Pinnacle Renewable Energy Facility  
<http://pinnaclepellet.com/documents/feedback/>

## Tolko Lavington Planer Mill

Email Tolko at:  
[environment@tolko.com](mailto:environment@tolko.com)

## District of Coldstream

By-law infractions including noise By-laws.

Use the 'Contact Us' form at:  
<http://www.coldstream.ca/content/bylaw-enforcement>

## B.C. Ministry of Environment Air, Water and Land Waste Pollution

Email MOE at:  
[environmentalcomplaints@gov.bc.ca](mailto:environmentalcomplaints@gov.bc.ca)

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## What is Lavington LIFE?

- LIFE is a non-profit registered society dedicated to protecting the environment and maintaining a high quality of life in Lavington and area.
- We advocate for a clean, safe, healthy, natural environment for our Community.
- We emphasize a science-based approach to environmental protection and management.
- We monitor and provide input to the actions of all levels of government in the Community.

## If you wish to participate...

Send an email to [lavingtonlifesociety@shaw.ca](mailto:lavingtonlifesociety@shaw.ca) with your name, address, & telephone number and we will contact you.

There is no membership fee but donations are welcome. We welcome membership from all residents and local businesses.

## Coldstream Woodstove Exchange Program

Thanks to funding from the BC Government in partnership with the BC Lung Association, and the 2017 Grant-in-Aid from the District of Coldstream, Lavington Life Society will be administering the 2017 Coldstream Woodstove Exchange Program. Rebates along with retailer discounts offer a total savings of up to \$650. For more information about the program go to Lavington Life Society's website: [lavingtonlifesociety.wordpress.com](http://lavingtonlifesociety.wordpress.com)