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Presentation to Lake Country Mayor and Council,
November 2, 2021



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Radon Testing in Lake Country



214 HOMES
participated by testing for radon gas during the winter of 2020. This represents approximately 4% of the community dwellings.

52% of homes tested above Health Canada's guideline of 200 Bq/m³.

 Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground.

 Exposure to elevated levels of radon is linked to increased chances of developing lung cancer.

City	Total Number of Homes Tested	Percentage under 100 Bq/m ³	100-200 Bq/m ³	Over 200 Bq/m ³
Kelowna	573	44%	33%	23%
Lake Country	214	17%	31%	52%
Peachland	39	16%	33%	51%
West Kelowna	207	29%	35%	36%


UNDER 100 Bq/m³
(17%)


100-200 Bq/m³
(31%)


OVER 200 Bq/m³
(52%)

Levels can vary between neighbouring houses. The only way to know your radon level is to test.

- Joint project of RDCO Air Quality Program, Take Action on Radon and BC Lung Association, Healthy Indoor Environments
- Substantial funding from the Vancouver Foundation
- Intention to learn community radon levels and to kickstart action

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New British Columbia Radon Data Repository Numbers

- Housed at BC Centre for Disease Control
- Compilation of radon data from multiple sources
- new figures released to BC Lung Sept 1, 2021



Community Health Service Area	No. of Buildings tested	No. of Buildings and percentage over 100 Bq/m ³	No. of Buildings and percentage over 200 Bq/m ³	No. of Buildings and percentage over 600 Bq/m ³	No. of Buildings and percentage over 1000 Bq/m ³	Dates
Central Okanagan Rural 1371	103	75, 73%	49, 48%	16, 16%	7, 7%	2007-03-20 to 2021-03-22
Downtown Kelowna 1375	179	41, 23%	7, 4%	2, 1%	1, <1%	2001-05-26 to 2021-03-24
Glenmore 1374	304	174, 57%	70, 23%	4, 1%	1, <1%	1999-02-03 to 2021-04-26
Lake Country 1373	241	183, 76%	114, 47%	21, 9%	9, 4%	2002-10-26 to 2021-06-16
Okanagan Mission 1377	298	164, 55%	72, 24%	6, 2%	1, <1%	2001-11-20 to 2021-07-01
Rutland 1376	96	45, 47%	13, 14%	0	0	2001-09-27 to 2021-04-03
West Kelowna 1372	308	193, 63%	101, 33%	16, 5%	4, 1%	1999-02-19 to 2021-04-30
TOTAL	1529	875, 57%	426, 28%	65, 4%	23, 2%	

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Health Canada's National Radon Program

- Limited by Canada's division of powers
- testing and mapping
- the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP)
- guidance documents on how to test and mitigate
- public education and outreach
- limited Radon provisions in the National Building Code

Health Canada Santé Canada
Your health and safety... our priority. Votre santé et votre sécurité... notre priorité.

Guide for Radon Measurements in Public Buildings

(Workplaces, Schools, Day Cares, Hospitals, Care Facilities, Correctional Centres)



TAKE ACTION ON RADON



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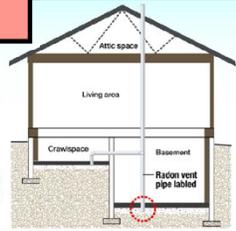
BC provincial action— Building Code

Rough-in stub

- Found in National Building Code, most provinces

After 2015 BC has a more complete rough-in in the Building Code

"There are well-established, cost-effective methods for reducing elevated radon levels."

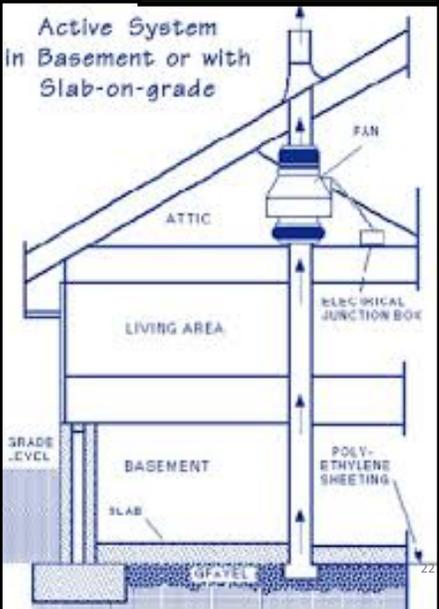


Updates to the 2012 BC Building Code include extending the radon pipe to the exterior of a dwelling at time of construction. The passive radon vent piping system for new construction, focusing on sub slab depressurization as applied to Area 1, are the strongest protective measures in Canada.

BC Building Code 2015

A C-NRPP certified mitigator will likely install this

Active System in Basement or with Slab-on-grade



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There are many *general duties* around health and safety which can prompt radon action

- landlords must provide renters a state of decoration that makes it suitable for occupation (*Residential Tenancies Act SBC 2002, c 78— section 32*)
- Employers have broad duties to ensure the health and safety of their workplaces (*Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, BC Reg 296/97 (OHSR), s. 4.1*)
- And also ionizing radiation (*OHSR ss. 7.17 to 7.25*)
- A daycare licensee must operate a daycare in a manner that will promote the health, safety and dignity of persons in care (*Community Care and Assisted Living Act s. 7(1) (b)*)
- The BC Interior Health Authority ordered testing in Child Care facilities
- Real estate licensees must report known latent defects— that includes radon

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What Can the District of Lake Country do?

Proclaim November Radon Action Month

Whereas

- the District of Lake Country is considered to be at a greater risk for high levels of indoor radon gas; and
- Indoor radon gas is known to be a serious public health risk causing as many as 16% of lung cancer deaths in Canada each year; and
- Detecting levels of indoor radon gas is simple with a low cost and easy to administer test; and
- If high levels of indoor radon are present in a home cost-effective solutions exist to reduce unsafe levels.

Now, therefore,

I, James Baker, Mayor of the District of Lake Country do hereby proclaim November 1st To November 30th as RADON ACTION MONTH in the District of Lake Country.

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Start Longer Term Radon Action	
Set a Goal	“reduce the number of homes in this district with elevated radon by half within 10 years”
Monitoring	Radon Testing in Municipal Buildings Community surveys on local knowledge, testing and mitigation
Education and Awareness	Municipal awareness campaigns, working with local health authorities
Radon Reduction in New Construction	Enforce Building Code Ensure Building Inspectors trained
Radon Reduction Older Homes	Standards of Maintenance, Testing Social Housing, subsidies/incentives,
Workplaces	Clean air bylaws for public spaces
Plan Implementation	Part of municipal planning— Sustainability strategies, Healthy Built Environment strategies

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Radon Policies for Local Governments

- We have funding to work on collaborating with local governments on radon action
- We have completed a legal analysis explaining municipal law powers in BC to act on radon
- Builds on Health Canada Radon Action Guides for Provinces and Territories and Radon Action Guide for Municipalities
- We offer tailored analysis
- Will visit communities
- Currently working with RDCO for a Radon Guide for the Central Okanagan
- Would like to participate more closely with Lake Country



RADON AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Municipal Law Powers in BC

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Thank you. Questions?

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