



## Dear Residents of Greater Trail

### THANK YOU FOR GIVING US YOUR OPINIONS!

In May, over 200 community members gave their opinions about the health & environment program and its health and air quality goals. We wanted to reach 200-300 people face-to-face and more on the web. And... 260 people attended consultation events, about 300 people visited the website [www.thep.ca](http://www.thep.ca), and 80 people dropped by our office at 1319 Bay Ave. Thank you!!!

### WHAT WE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS:

1 Residents who responded to our survey showed strong support for the program goals and activities but also said they knew little about the Trail Area Health & Environment Program.

2 85% fully support the blood lead goal to have 95% of Trail children aged 6-36 months test below the international "level of concern", 10 µg/dL (micrograms per deciliter) by 2015. Currently, about 90% test below this level.

3 Over 76% fully support the air quality goals to achieve the tightest guidelines in Canada for lead and arsenic by 2018. Some people would like to see the goals achieved sooner.

4 Over 75% fully support the family health, home renovation support, and garden & yard soils programs staying the same.

5 85% said they knew little or nothing about THE Program. We need to do a better job getting the word out, particularly to young families and home renovators.



## A COMMON COMMUNITY QUESTION

**Question:** What is the benefit of achieving the new blood lead goal?

**Answer:** Today, of the 100 or so children we test each year, around 10% of children test above the current international “level of concern”. Our own follow-up criteria are more stringent, so we typically have about 20-25 children that we follow up. This could be cut more or less in half in 5 years if we achieve our goal. While current blood lead levels are such that we would likely never detect health effects in an individual, broader scientific studies continue to show health risks from exposure to low levels of lead. The “level of concern” is expected to drop in future. The Canadian average blood lead is now below 2µg/dL and we want to get our children’s average down to 4µg/dL by 2015. We’d really like to see all children test below the “level of concern”.

## HOW COMMUNITY INPUT IS BEING USED

The public’s strong support for our proposed goals and program activities gives us confidence in moving forward. We will use public input to develop a 5 Year Health & Environment Plan, outlining the activities to achieve the air quality and blood lead goals. Steve Hilts, Superintendent of Environmental Remediation at Teck says; “Teck is committed to meeting the goals and to doing its best to reduce the levels as quickly as possible.” Working with Teck to lower smelter emissions makes the biggest contribution to our goals. By working with families, renovators and as a community, we’ll achieve the best results!

We’ll be promoting the program more actively, both on-line and in the community. We want all families with young children and home renovators to use the services available to support good health.

For more information and answers to your questions, please visit [www.thep.ca](http://www.thep.ca), drop by the Community Program Office, 1319 Bay Avenue, e-mail us at [programs@thec.ca](mailto:programs@thec.ca) or call (250) 368-3256. Don’t forget the Home Renovation Support Program has free supplies for homeowners in Trail and Rivervale, and owners of pre-1976 homes anywhere in Greater Trail!

***Thank you! By working together we make the Trail area a great place to live!***

