



NEWS RELEASE issued by THEC
2020 Children's Lead Levels are the Lowest to Date

November 27, 2020

Trail, BC - The results from the 2020 children's blood lead testing clinic show that the average blood lead level for children aged six to 36 months in Trail and Rivervale is 2.3 micrograms per decilitre. This is a decrease from the 2019 average of 2.6 and 2018 average of 2.9. Participation rates for this voluntary program, despite uncertainty due to COVID-19, remain high.

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) is continuing its efforts to further reduce children's blood lead levels and is encouraged by the decline. We strive for continuous improvement working to deliver programs aimed to reduce exposure to lead in the community, and specifically exposure to children.

The THEC Air Quality Program, managed by Teck Trail Operations, continues to reduce lead in the environment through the comprehensive Fugitive Dust Reduction Program. The 2020 year-to-date average for lead in community air is 0.08 micrograms per cubic metre, the lowest level to date.

Quotes:

Mayor Lisa Pasin, City of Trail, Chair of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee says, "I am encouraged to see the 2020 blood lead level has remained below 3 micrograms per decilitre for a third year in a row. This year, the Trail Area Health and Environment Program committed to reach more families, extending voluntary annual blood lead testing to surrounding areas. As blood lead levels decrease in our community, we continue to review and evolve our programs to further reduce children's potential exposure to lead and strive toward lower blood lead levels in the future."

Dr. Karin Goodison, Medical Health Officer, Interior Health says, "I am pleased to note the excellent turn out for the blood lead clinic, despite the challenges of COVID this year. It is reassuring to see the continued reduction in the blood lead geomean in children from the Trail area. We do continue to see some children with higher levels than we would like and we must continue to strive to further reduce lead exposures for children in the Trail area."

Dan Bouillon, Manager, Environment at Teck Trail Operations says, "Our year-to-date 2020 ambient air quality results are again on track to be the lowest annual levels ever recorded. The annual lead in ambient air measure is a 30% reduction since last year and an 80% reduction since we began Teck Trail Operations' comprehensive Fugitive Dust Reduction Program in 2012."

About the Trail Area Health & Environment Program

The Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) has five main areas of activity: Family Health, Home & Garden, Air Quality, Parks, and Property Development. THEP promotes a healthy environment through a comprehensive integrated program that successfully improves air quality and children's blood lead levels, and promotes the health of the community. The Air Quality Program reduces smelter emissions and makes the largest contribution to achieving health and environment goals. All our activities work together to get the best results – lower exposure, lower health risks, and a healthier environment.

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC), a subcommittee of Trail City Council, oversees the program. THEC includes collaboration with the local community, Teck, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Interior Health. Over the past three decades children's blood lead levels in Trail have reduced and air quality has improved. For more information please visit thep.ca.

For more information, contact:

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