

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



SUMMARY

HYBRID Meeting: June 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Location: City of Trail Committee Room #2 (Spokane St entrance) & <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218168644>

Committee Members in attendance:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail	Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail	Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Tara Bullanoff, Interior Health	Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 Rep
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations	Jasen Nelson, BC Ministry of Env
Doug Hill, BC Ministry of Env	Dr. Karin Goodison, Interior Health MHO
Ashley Melenchuk, Community (Parent)	Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)
Julia Stockhausen, Community Member (FAN)	

Others in attendance:

Meghan Morris, Interior Health	Christina Yamada, Interior Health
Jayne Garry, Teck Trail Operations	Cindy Hall, Community Program Office
Keith Klimchuk, Teck Trail Operations	Andrea McCormick, Community Program Office
Dave Bell, Teck Trail Operations	Morgan Sternberg, Community Program Office (CPO)
Nelson Ames, former MHO	Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) meets five times per year online or in-person. Members, designates and community members are welcome.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Mayor Colleen Jones, THEC Chair, welcomed everyone online and in person followed by a round of introductions.

MEETING MINUTES

- The THEC meeting summary from April 20, 2023 was approved.

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

An introduction to the Wide Area Remediation Plan

Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

- A Wide Area Remediation Plan (WARP) is being developed to manage risks associated with soil contamination from historical smelter aerial emissions in Trail and surrounding areas through land-use specific, risk-based prioritized approaches.
- Discussion and questions followed the presentation. The questions posed will help better understand the future communication needs in presenting WARP information to the public. Questions (as listed below) will be themed and responded to where information is available.
- See presentation attached.

Questions posed after the presentation:

- What will the role of municipalities in the region be in rolling out / supporting the WARP?
- Why do the partners want a WARP and what are the benefits to each (ENV, IH, City, Teck)?
- How will the WARP consider the mineral profile for materials released in the Trail Environmental Management Area (EMA)?
- How will engagement be done? Will chunks be brought to THEC? How will the community be brought along in the process? How will residents from inside and outside the EMA be included in public consultation? Methods are important.

Air Quality Report (see attached report)

- **Dan Bouillon** shared once Teck's new feed dryer technology is operational, it is predicted to reduce SO₂ emissions by 50%.

Health Report (see attached report)

- **Meghan Morris** shared that after many years, the public health nurse role is now 1.0 FTE with administrative support. She thanked partners who wrote letters of support. She also noted community collaboration with CBAL as they have donated books to support Healthy Families Healthy Homes visits.

Community Program Office (see attached report)

- **Morgan Sternberg** introduced herself as the new supervisor replacing Andrea McCormick. Andrea will continue working on the WARP. Morgan shared her experience growing up near a former smelter community in Washington, her background in environmental contaminants and excitement to work with THEP.
- She shared that local community engagement is high with interest in lead in paint as well as the pilot block soil management initiative. Several questions and comments have come to the program office.

Community & Round Table Check-In - All

- No comments.

Program Planning Update - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

- Monitoring:
 - See Healthy Families Healthy Homes 2020-2022 survey summary (report attached)
- Communications:
 - See THEP's [Spring Newsletter](#) and THEP's [newest brochure](#)
 - Updated communications plan will include: knowledge base, plan with key messages, and updated website
 - Handwashing signs previously shared at meetings are now installed in four parks in Trail and one in Warfield promoting handwashing after play and before eating.
- Program team support has focused on planning a knowledge sharing and learning tour with Provincial agencies and partners
 - Laurel Nash, ADM Ministry of Environment and Maryna Korchagina, ADM Ministry of Health along with members of their teams, and Interior Health are coming to Trail, June 21-23, to learn together, share all the great work taking place and gain an understanding of the local context.
 - Several THEC community members volunteered to join the evening walk and dinner on June 21st to introduce the visitors to THEP's work in the community.

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

- There was no partner meeting.

2023 THEC MEETING DATES

- September 27 and December 6 are the future meeting dates.
- THEC meetings are held from 7:00-9:00pm online and in-person.

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



AGENDA

HYBRID Meeting: June 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

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Committee Members:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Dr. Karin Goodison, Interior Health MHO
Jane Power, Interior Health
Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 Rep
Ron Joseph, Community Member (Resident)
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations
Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Annick de Goede, Community Member (Parent)

Linda Worley, RDKB Area B
Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield
Ali Grieve, RDKB Area A
Julie Orban, BC Ministry of Environment
Jasen Nelson, BC Ministry of Environment
Erika Krest, Community Member (Chamber)
Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)
Julia Stockhausen, Community Member (FAN)
Ashley Melenchuk, Community (Parent)

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) meets five times per year online or in-person. Members, designates and community members are welcome.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Opening remarks from Colleen Jones, THEC Chair

MEETING MINUTES

- Approve minutes from THEC meeting, April 20, 2023 (as attached)

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

An introduction to the Wide Area Remediation Plan (45 mins)

- Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
- Discussion and Questions

Program Reports & Updates

Air, Health, and Community Program Office reports are provided in the agenda package for your review prior to the meeting. Please bring your questions and comments for discussion.

Q&A and Comments on Reports All (10 mins)

- Q&A on all reports (Air, Health, Community Program Office)
 - Air Quality Working Group update (**Steve Hilts**)
 - Open questions and highlights (**All**)

Community & Round Table Check-In - All (15 mins)

- Round table contributions & questions

Program Planning Update - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator (10 min)

- Monitoring:
 - See Healthy Families Healthy Homes 2020-2022 survey summary (attached)
- Communications:
 - [Spring Newsletter](#) & THEP's [newest brochure](#)
 - Communications plan: knowledge base, key messages, website
- Team support:
 - Planning for June 21-23 visit with Provincial agencies and partners

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

2023 THEC MEETING DATES

- September and November meeting dates to be confirmed via email.
- THEC meetings are held from 7:00-9:00pm.

Presentation

An introduction to the Wide Area Remediation Plan

Wide Area Remediation Plan Update to THEC

June 2023

Clare North, P.Geo

Superintendent, Environmental Remediation &
Biodiversity

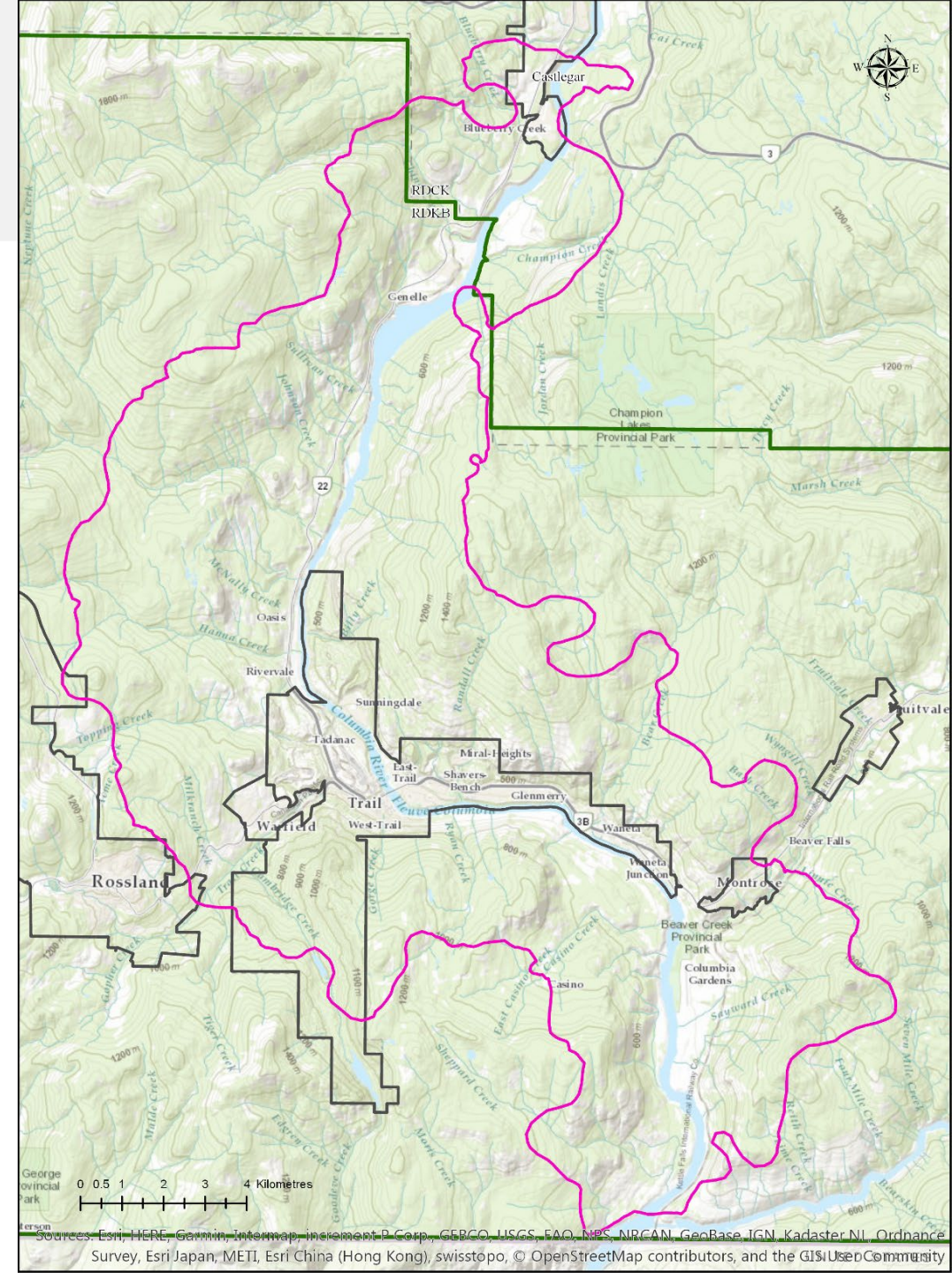
The Teck logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the slide, set against a white background.

What is a Wide Area Remediation Plan (WARP)?

- Approved remediation plan for an **Environmental Management Area** (an area where many properties are impacted from a single source)
- For Trail:
 - Provides regulatory security to property owners that Teck is the responsible party for any required remediation
 - WARP will build on THEP and Lower Columbia Environmental Management Program to address historical soil impacts in Trail and surrounding area
 - Medical Health Officer (Interior Health) has a role in determining remediation standards protective of human health
 - BC ENV are approvers
 - Draft plan will go to full public consultation prior to approval and implementation

Scope

- address **human health** and **ecological** risks associated with:
 - soil impacts from historical aerial emissions
 - within the Environmental Management Area (EM Area)
 - for Lead (Pb), Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), and Zinc (Zn)

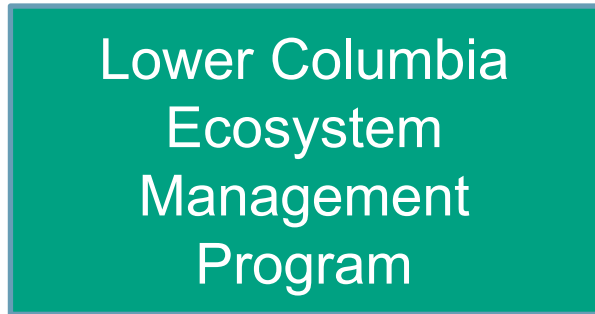


Path to a WARP

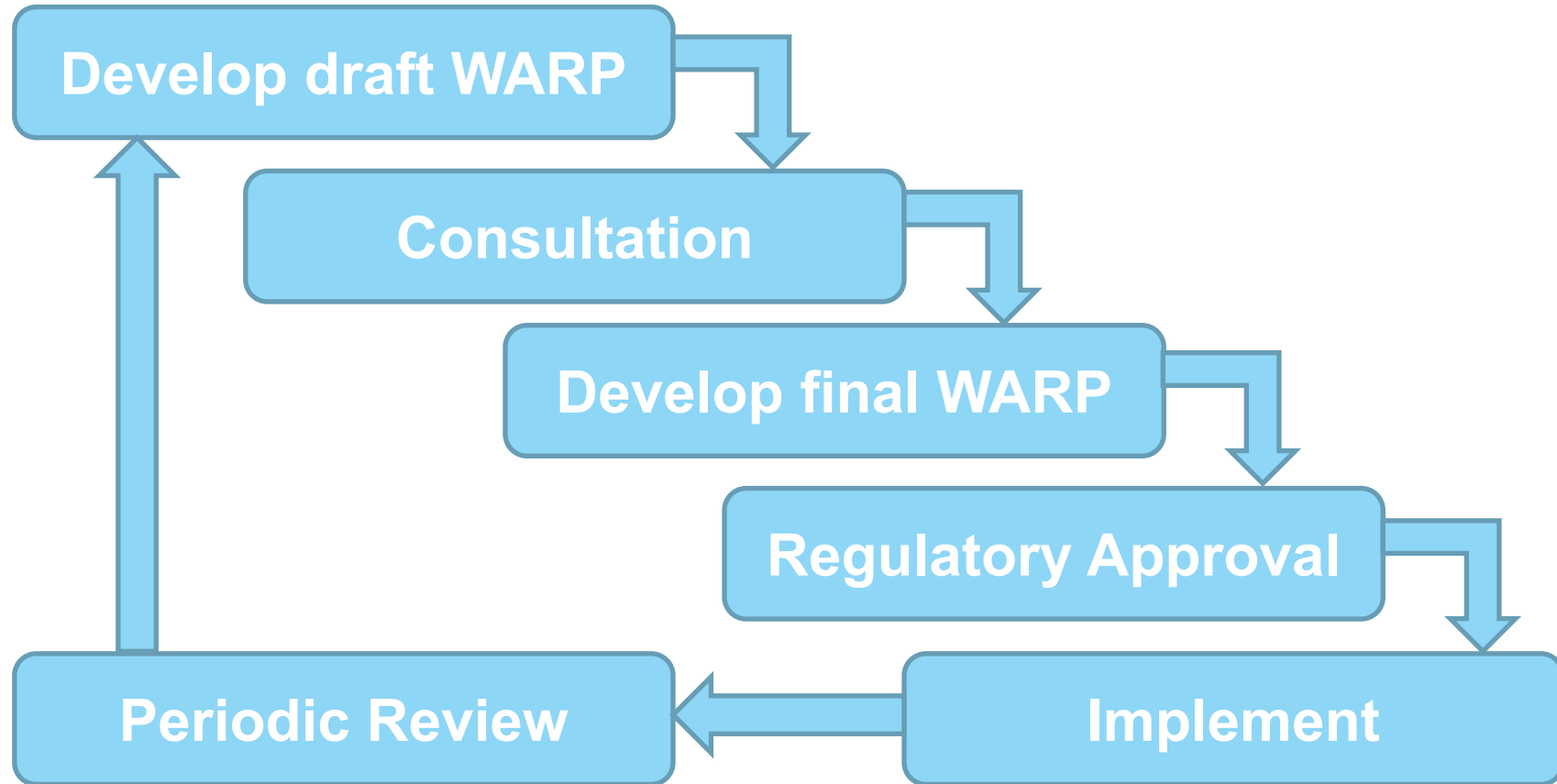
Now



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Next



How Will Engagement Be Done?
A) Teck - "Chemicals Baseline"
B) BARRAGE - "Mercury So Important"

How will the knowledge translation be presented for public consumption?

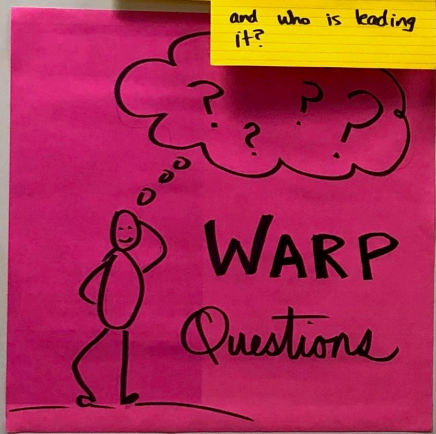
Will there be a separate technical WG during engagement process, and how would it interact with the public/indigenous engagement processes?

How will residents from inside, and possibly outside of the Trail EM area, be included in public consultation?

Are there other examples in B.C. (including engagement) to learn from?

WHY NOW?

How did the legislation / WARP concept come to be and who is leading it?



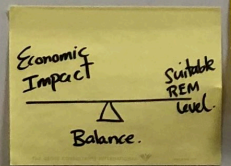
What ^{will} be the role of municipalities in the region in rolling out / Supporting the WARP?

1. WHY DO THE PARTNERS/Community want a WARP? what are the benefits?
- Teck
- Community
- City
- ENV
- Health
- Kids

How will the WARP consider the mineral profile for materials released into the TRAIL EM Area?

5. What does implementation look like?
eg- priorities, do they change?

How Will CAP Fit With/Into Plan? OR Will Prep An Annual Plan?



WHAT IS THE ACTION LEVEL?

How is 'background' determined?

What does the ENV approval process involve?

5-YEAR Reviews APPROACH PERIOD?
(Does Teck's Assessment/Requirement Has Been That A Plan To Be Approved Be Approved "in parallel")

2. Does having a WARP mean the ENA is designated as a contaminated site?
(what does it mean for financing & property titles)

Charge on "title" by Teck, what changes with WARP?

Program Reports **& Updates**

Air Quality Report

Air Quality Report – June 2023

1. Lead in Air:

Figure 1 presents the 3-month rolling average for lead in air measured at the Butler Park station compared to the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³. Federal and BC Provincial governments do not have ambient air quality objectives or standards for lead; however, it is reasonable to rely on standards from other jurisdictions when this is the case.

Lead in air levels measured at Butler Park and Birchbank meet the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³ on a 3-month average. The intra-annual variability in the data reflects the influence of weather including dominant wind direction and precipitation. Read THEP’s Lead (Pb) [Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

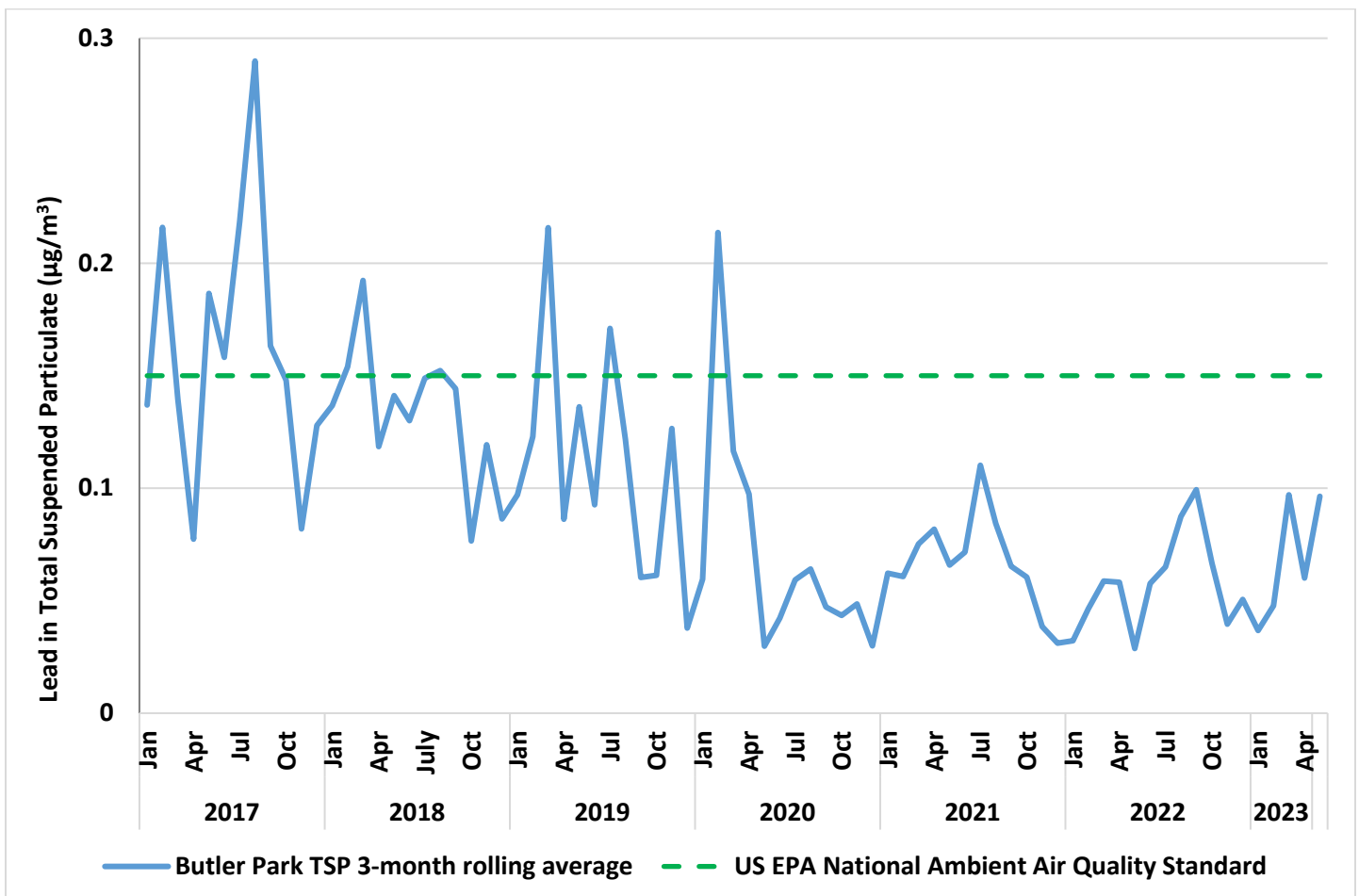


Figure 1: 3-month rolling average lead in air at Butler Park station (as total suspended particulate measured bi-daily)

The chart in Figure 1 shows the 3-month rolling average for lead in air for Butler Park (blue line), in comparison to the US EPA standard (green dashed line).

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?
 Call Teck’s Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817

2. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂):

SO₂ is emitted by Teck Trail Operations as a by-product of processing mine concentrates, which contain sulphur, into metal and chemical products. Teck Trail Operations currently captures more than 99% of the sulphur and converts it to by-products, such as fertilizer and sulphuric acid. About 1% leaves the operation through emissions to air. With environmental improvements, SO₂ emissions continue to decline. However, the dispersion of air emissions from the smelter is constrained due to the location of the smelter, weather and the surrounding topography.

SO₂ is monitored by Teck at four locations throughout Trail and the surrounding areas – Birchbank, Butler Park, Columbia Gardens and Warfield. These stations operate continuously, with near real-time data publicly available at <https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/find-stations-map-SO2.html> SO₂ levels fluctuate throughout the day, month and year.

THEP's SO₂ [Fact Sheet](#) provides guidance for actions to take when SO₂ levels are elevated. The chart below provides SO₂ hourly data from Butler Park and Birchbank stations for the last 10 years categorized by the health guidance levels. As Teck Trail Operations continues to implement emissions reductions measures, the percentage of hours within the yellow (35-185 ppb) and red (>185 ppb) categories is decreasing. In 2022 and 2023 year-to-date, there were no hours in the red (>185 ppb) category at Butler Park or Birchbank stations.

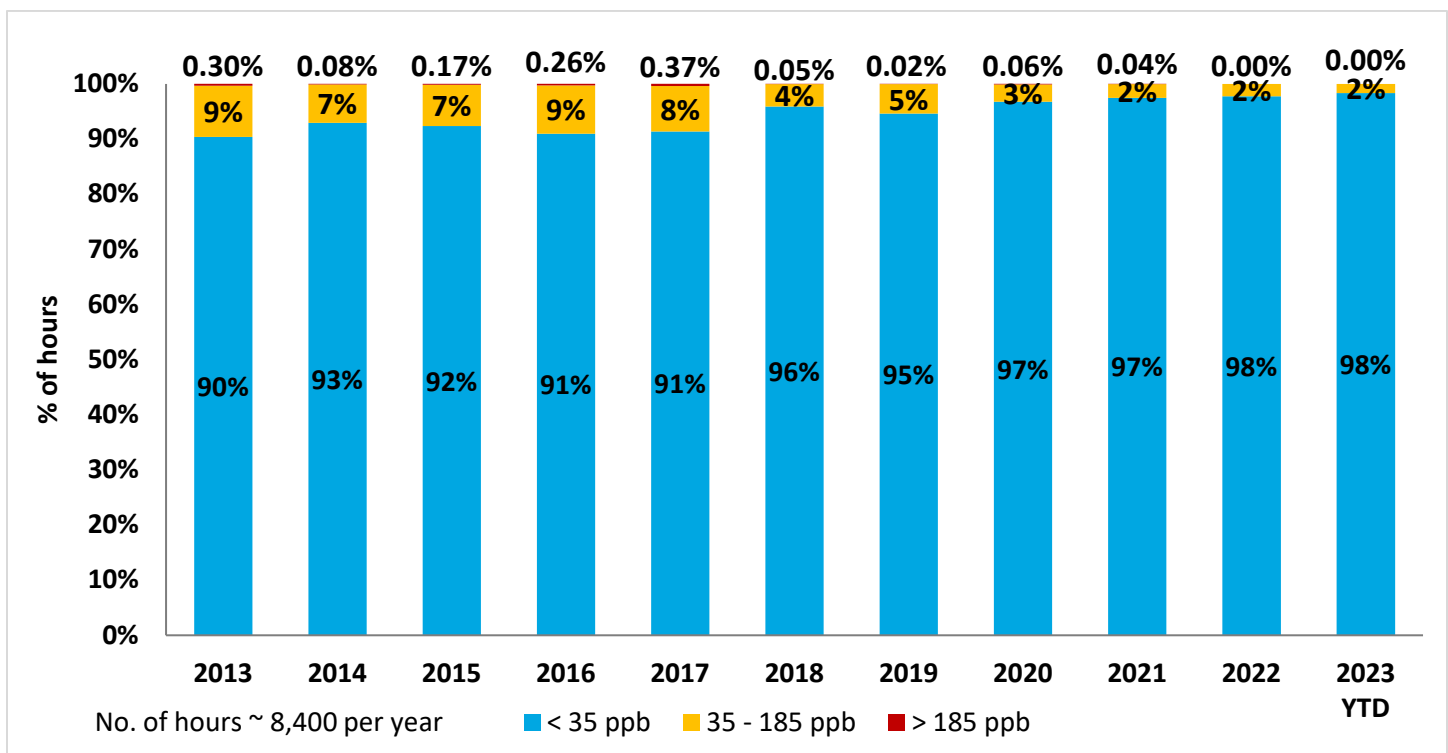


Figure 2: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Butler Park

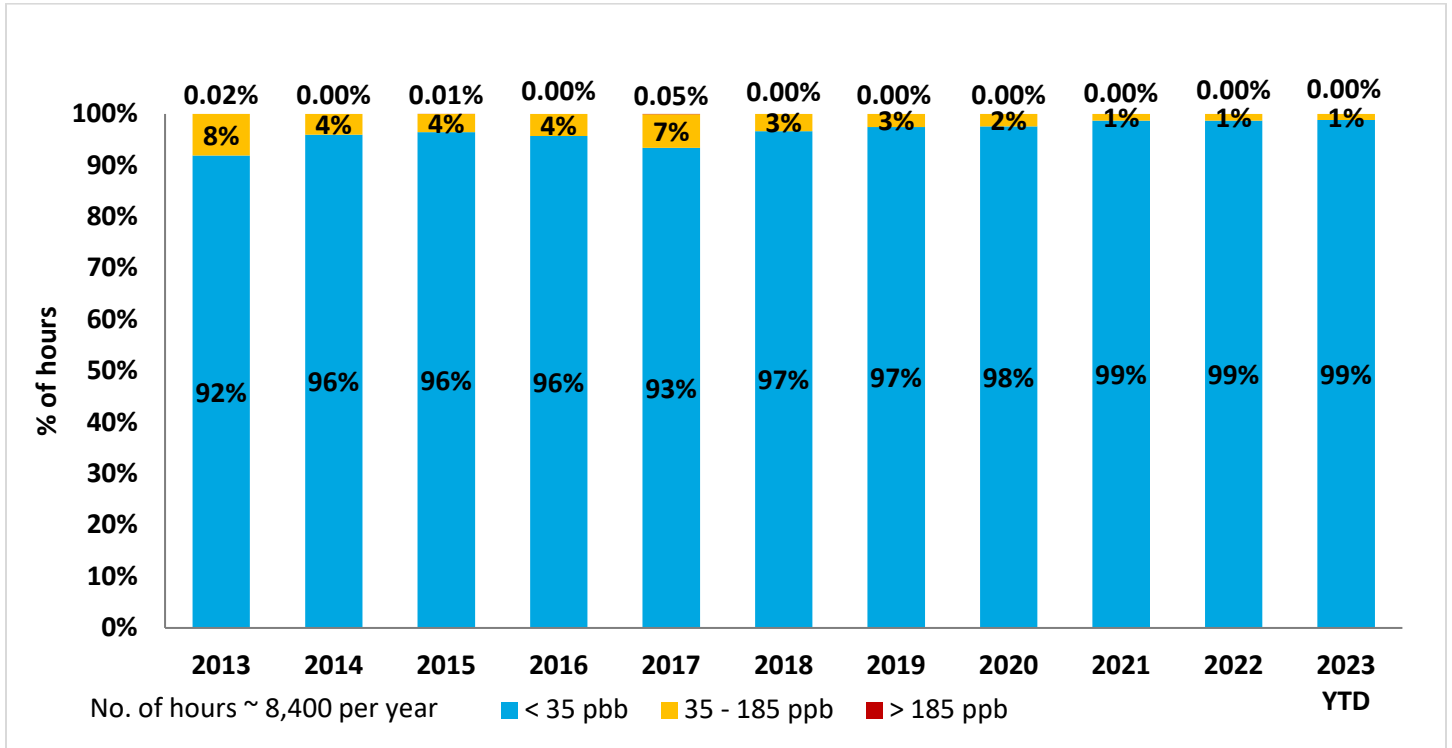


Figure 3: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Birchbank

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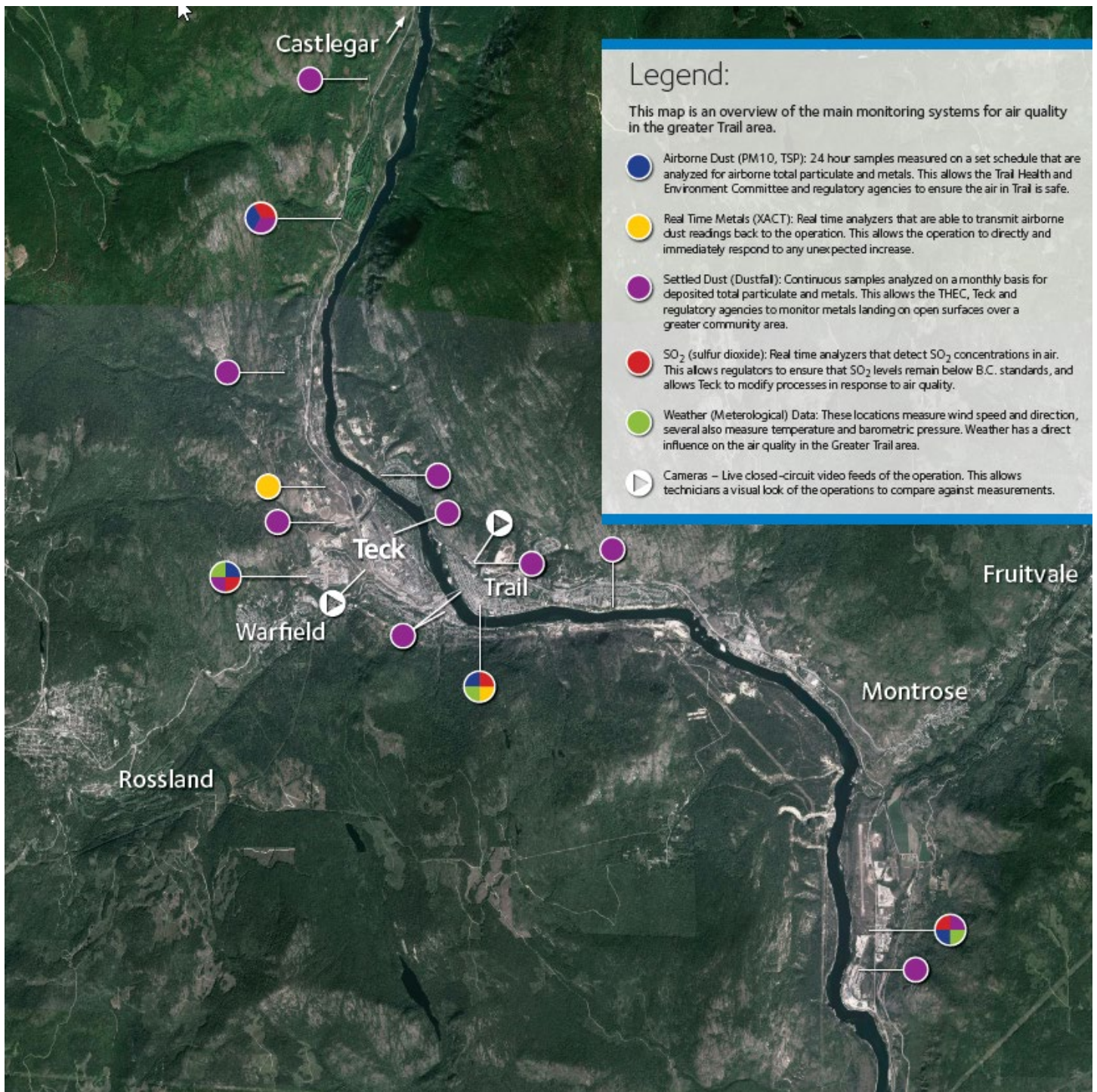


Figure 4: Teck Community Air Monitoring Stations

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?
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Health Report



FAMILY HEALTH REPORT

June 15, 2023

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Increase to PHN FTE
2. Healthy Family Visits
3. Community Outreach
4. Blood Lead Clinic Updates

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Increase to PHN FTE for Trail Area Health & Environment Program
 - The Senior Executive Team at Interior Health has approved an increase to the Public Health Nursing FTE of 0.4 FTE to equal 1.0 FTE in total. This will be split between Meghan and another nurse to ensure ongoing knowledge transfer and stability of the Program.
 - Additionally 0.2 FTE of Administrative Support has been approved to support the PHN work. Previously the PHN had no formal admin support.
2. Healthy Family Visits
 - 45 Healthy Family visits completed so far 2023
 - Two visits declined, both had received previous visits with older children. One family did engage with CPO for refresh of Healthy Home supports.
3. Community Outreach
 - Meghan continues to attend Building Beautiful Babies monthly.
 - Meghan attended Teddy Bear Picnic June 14th.
 - Cecilee attended the Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic on June 12th.
4. Blood Lead Clinic Updates
 - Fall clinic to be scheduled over three weeks in September.
 - Tentative dates September 11, 13, 18, 19, 25 and 27.

Community Program Office Report



COMMUNITY PROGRAM OFFICE (CPO) REPORT

June 15, 2023

The CPO's spring field season got off to a busy start. Along with historically offered programs, standardized paint screening and the Pilot Block Initiative were added to further reduce potential exposure to lead (Pb) in the community. Soil management projects are well under way, with generally positive feedback from residents. Community feedback has been particularly helpful in determining ways to improve communication surrounding the new portions of the program. Summer program initiatives will continue as planned; to kick-off the summer season, the CPO was excited to host a booth at the Trail Teddy Bear Picnic on June 14th.

1 Soil Management Program:

- › Yard Improvement:
 - Ground Cover Improvements: 5 properties for DIY deliveries of ground cover materials planned; 3 properties completed.
 - Lawn Care: 14 Healthy Homes properties and 56 post-soil management (pilot) properties initiated. First round of fertilizer has been applied. The new contractor, Kootenay Ground Maintenance, has thoroughly evaluated almost all lawns following communication with property owners.
- › Soil Assessment:
 - Soil assessment activities include conducting soil testing, ground cover evaluations, and exterior standardized paint screening.
 - Soil testing: 37 properties (and exterior paint screenings) have been completed; 27 properties remain on the list.
 - Ground Cover Evaluations: 63 properties completed; 11 properties remain and will be completed by end of June.
- › Soil Replacement:
 - Full soil replacement: 24 properties completed so far, as well as at 3 vegetable garden sites.
 - Planning is underway for many of the tough access properties, and equipment is being tested to provide innovative solutions for soil replacement at difficult access sites.
 - Pilot Block Initiative is proceeding smoothly. 4 properties completed at the first block (1300 block of Columbia Ave & 2nd Ave) and second block (1400 block of 3rd Ave & 4th Ave) began the week of June 13th. We have had a high participation rate so far and residents generally have positive feedback to share. Questions from the community about this initiative are specific to the block selection process and plans for future seasons.

2 Healthy Homes:

- › Healthy Homes:
 - 35 home visits completed in 2023
- › Enhanced Support:
 - Verbal results of most recent Residential Lead Inspection shared with resident.



3 Lead (Pb) Safe Renovation:

- › The goal of the Lead (Pb) Safe Renovation program is to support lead (Pb)-safe renovations conducted by homeowners or tenants. Through this program, we provide personal protective gear, containment supplies, and disposal supplies in addition to offering advice on lead (Pb)-safe practices.
- › 26 residents have accessed free supplies in 2023

4 Outreach and Engagement:

- › Co-facilitated the final session of Three & Thriving with the Family Action Network.
- › Final 2 daycare outreach visits completed.
- › Continued participation with the Navigator meetings, Early Years committee, and involved on the Family Action Network board.

Program Planning:

Healthy Families Healthy Homes 2020-2022 Survey Summary

Healthy Families Healthy Homes Survey 2020-2022

Summary of Findings

June 11, 2023

To better understand how the Healthy Families Healthy Homes (HFHH) program was working, THEP sent a survey to 120 families who participated in HFHH from 2020 to 2022. The survey was open from March 31 to April 30, 2023. 47 people (39%) responded to the survey. Respondents were from a variety of communities, with the highest number of people participating from Glenmerry, West Trail, Warfield, Sunningdale and East Trail.

The most common areas the **respondents had participated in** were blood lead testing clinics and soil testing, followed by soil management, with a smaller number participating in the Lead Safe Renovation program.

95.45 % of respondents found the home visit helpful and felt the program responsible was a trusted source of knowledge.



On a scale of 1-4, 95.45% of respondents selected option 3 or 4 indicating they felt that the program responsible for the home visits was a **trusted source of knowledge**, with 84.09% selecting option 4, "a lot". This indicator is part of the health section of THEP's strategic plan 2022-2027.

Respondents generally rated the in-person visits as more helpful than virtual visits.

88.64% of respondents said that **participating in the HFHH program empowered them to take steps to improve the health of their home and/or family**. This exceeds the milestone of 80% in the built environment section of the THEP strategic plan 2022-2027.

Information and Actions

81.82% of respondents indicated that **they gained information** from the services and offerings, with 15.91% responding that they gained little to no information. 54.55% of respondents said they **learned about other community programs** from the visits. This is a lower percentage as compared with the 2017-2019 survey results (55% vs. 74%).

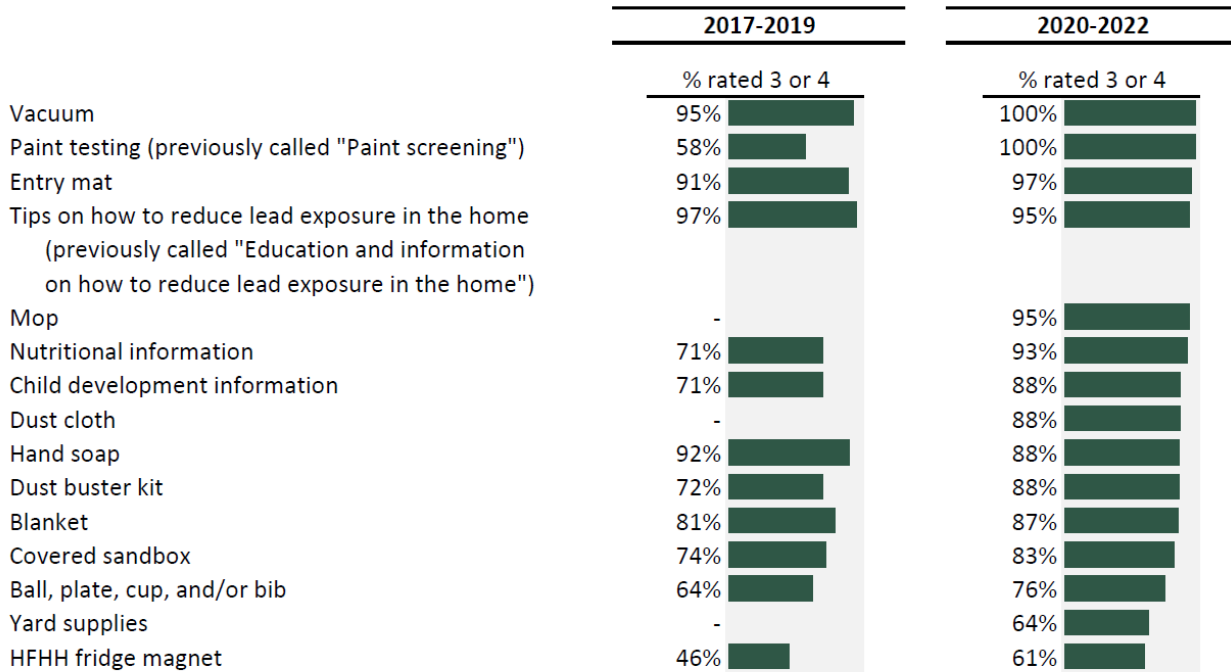
Not all participants received the same services or offerings, so the results regarding what was most helpful reflected the most common offerings, such as tips, hand soap, and an entry mat. Respondents indicated that the services and offerings that most **helped them to reduce health risks** from lead or potential to exposure to lead were:

- Tips on how to reduce lead exposure in the home
- Mop
- Hand soap
- Entry mat
- Vacuum

Healthy Families Healthy Homes Survey 2020-2022

Overall, respondents from 2020-2022 responded that they felt more strongly that services and offerings helped them to reduce health risks from lead or potential exposure to lead.

2020-2022 wording: (Q13) If you received the following services or offerings, please tell us to what extent you feel they helped you to reduce health risks from lead or potential exposure to lead.
2017-2019 wording: (Q21) If you used the following services or offerings, please tell us to what extent you feel they helped you to reduce health risks from lead or exposure to lead.



Paint testing/screening was considered to be a more helpful service from 2020 to 2022 than in previous years. The need to consider other pathways for lead exposure, such as paint, was an emergent learning in the 2020 Evaluation Report, and this topic was emphasized following this learning.

When asked about what **changes they made in their home as a result of home visits**, the most common responses were wet mopping floors, vacuuming and damp dusting, as well as eating iron rich foods. Compared to the results from 2017-2019, most of the items had lower percentages of people making changes from 2020-2022 than from 2017-2019. The most extreme was for “washing and grooming pets outdoors” (38% made changes this time compared to 69% last time) but most of the differences were much smaller (roughly 3-15%). The percent of respondents making changes in **eating iron rich foods** increased from 63% to 85%. The importance of eating iron rich foods was noted as an emergent learning in the 2020 Evaluation Report and the program has since emphasized this topic.

Questions? Contact programs@thep.ca.