

SUMMARY HYBRID Meeting: April 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Location: *City of Trail Committee Room #2 (Spokane St entrance) or online*

Committee Members in Attendance:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield
Dr. Karin Goodison, Interior Health MHO
Tara Bullanoff, Interior Health
Erika Krest, Community Member (Chamber)
Vacant, Community Member

Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Glenda Fratton, Teck Trail Operations
Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 Rep -
Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)
Huan Liu, BC Ministry of Environment
Carol Lerosé, Community Member (Parent)
Sara Ridge, Community Member (Families)

Others in Attendance:

Frances Boreland, Broken Hill, Australia
Meghan Morris, Interior Health/THEP
Dave Bell, Teck Trail Operations
Jayne Garry, Teck Trail Operations
Jessica Yarwood, Teck Trail Operations
Cara Lachmuth, BC Ministry of Environment

Donna Dean, RDKB
Cecilee Pitman, Interior Health/THEP
Keith Klimchuk, Teck Trail Operations
Leanne Bowlby, Interior Health
Christina Yamada, Interior Health

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Colleen Jones, THEC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a land acknowledgement. She shared that the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments meeting was being held in Trail on the weekend and THEP and THEC are being showcased on a panel focused on leadership and collaboration with Mayor Jones, MHO Karin Goodison and Teck Trail GM Matt Parrilla. THEP is also co-hosting a walking tour with Heritage Friday morning to show work in the community.

Mayor Jones acknowledged THEP team and Committee changes including:

- Within Interior Health:
 - THEP's Public Health Nurse since 2019, Meghan Morris, is moving on to a new position end of April.
 - Christina Yamada, who supported the MHO and team, is moving on and welcomes Leanne Bowlby who will replace her on work related to THEP and THEC.
 - Karin Goodison, THEP's MHO for five years announced her retirement at the end of April. We hope she will continue to participate as a community member.
- Within Teck:
 - Clare North is moving to another position with Teck. She will stay on to transition her replacement once hired.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the THEC meeting, February 11th, 2026 were approved and are posted [online](#).

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Pb in paint and Lead Safe Renovation (LSR) Program Review

Presenters:

- **Morgan Sternberg (Community Program Office)**
- **Michelle Laurie (THEC Lead Facilitator)**

The presentation is attached in PDF.

- Ideas shared during discussion included:
 - Increase awareness of lead safe renovation at local building supplies stores as well as with members of the Chamber of Commerce.
 - RDKB can support by having building inspectors hand out THEP LSR information.
- A next step for THEP is to develop a community summary of the lead in paint review report.

Unicorn Daycare Information Sharing

Presenter: Clare North (Teck)

Clare provided background on the proposed Unicorn Daycare for the Committee. In 2018, additional daycare spaces were a priority for the Province and the City of Trail received Provincial funding to address the need locally. Based on several funding-related stipulations around location, a site in Tadanac was identified. Teck and the City negotiated an agreement and Teck transferred the land to the City; a requirement of the agreement was to work with THEP to integrate best practices into the design and build. THEP provided a set of recommendations to the City, the architect and the daycare operator. Examples of recommendations included handwashing stations, mudroom facilities, outdoor hose bibs to wash playground surfaces, location of operable windows, location of entries and playground equipment. As well, THEP offered soil testing, operator education and remains available to support as needed with respect to reducing exposure to lead dust.

Delays and cost increases resulted in the City reducing the size of the building. The project remains in the design phase.

An action suggested at the meeting is to develop an FAQ for Unicorn daycare and parents.

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)
 - Highlights from the program areas and open questions (**All**)
 - During the Air Quality report discussion, Teck shared a graph showing the 3-month rolling average for lead concentrations at the Birchbank and Butler Park stations for the 2015-2025 time period (see attached PDF). The graph shows an overall decrease in lead concentrations over time. In Dec 2025, there was a higher reading at Birchbank which resulted in an increase in the 3-month rolling average; however, concentrations remain below the US EPA standard. The likely cause was dust loss from equipment in the KIVCET building; the equipment is now enclosed with further repair work in the coming weeks. Further investigation is being done to confirm the cause and Teck noted its ongoing commitment to reducing lead in air in the community and its ongoing commitment to work with THEP partners to reduce children's lead exposure.
 - Clare North offered to include Birchbank three-month rolling average in future meetings. Huan Liu (ENV) agreed with reporting on both stations. He also commented on adding more monitoring stations where people live.

- ENV raised the idea of whether a special advisory on air quality events would be of value to the community. This idea was briefly discussed by THEC members, with some indicating that this would not likely be of value. It was agreed that the matter is best discussed through the Air Quality Working Group, as needed.
- AQWG Meeting Report (Steve Hilts)
 - The AQWG updated their Terms of Reference to include tracking progress on THEP's strategic directions milestones (see attached PDF).

Community & Round Table Check-In - All

- Erika Krest from the Chamber of Commerce invited people to their next Business After Business event with ICBC at the Skills Center April 30th. She also suggested THEP could be nominated for a Chamber award in the Go Green category or Community Impact.
- Questions were raised about the WARP which continues to be at the stage of indigenous consultation.

Program Planning Update - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

- Lead Safe Renovation Program review and planning for improvements is underway with the Program Team.
- The Onboarding Guide is ready to share and soft launch with our teams.
- There was a Communities of Practice meeting held March 11, 2026. There are many new people around the table and their interests are in strategic planning as well as onboarding.
- THEP partners lessons learned was shared in draft and everyone approved it to go online.

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

- Mayor Jones shared that the new ADM of Environment, Alyson Blackstock, accepted our invitation to come to Trail and will be joining our June THEC meeting.
- We also held a Knowledge Sharing & Learning Trail Group Meeting in March where there is a desire to continue the group as a way to ensure everyone gets clear communication and builds a shared understanding across different departments and THEP partner groups. An onboarding tour is being planned for June 10 and 11th in Trail for new members.

2026 THEC MEETING DATES

- June 11th
- Sept 10th
- November tbc.

AGENDA HYBRID Meeting: April 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Location: *City of Trail Committee Room #2 (Spokane St entrance) or online (link coming soon)*

Committee Members:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail	Linda Worley, RDKB Area B
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail	Ali Grieve, RDKB Area A
Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield	Ron Joseph, Community Member (Resident)
Dr. Karin Goodison, Interior Health MHO	Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)
Tara Bullanoff, Interior Health	Huan Liu, BC Ministry of Environment
Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 Rep -	Jasen Nelson, BC Ministry of Environment
Erika Krest, Community Member (Chamber)	Sara Ridge, Community Member (Families)
Clare North, Teck Trail Operations	Carol Lerosé, Community Member (Parent)
Glenda Fratton, Teck Trail Operations	Vacant, Community Member

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Opening remarks from Mayor Colleen Jones, THEC Chair.

MEETING MINUTES

- Review and approve minutes from THEC meeting, February 11th, 2026 (as attached).

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Lead (Pb) in paint and LSR Program Review (30 mins)

Presenters:

- **Morgan Sternberg (Community Program Office)**
- **Michelle Laurie (THEC Lead Facilitator)**
 - See summary report for THEC (PDF attached)
 - Presentation followed by Q&A

Unicorn Daycare Information Sharing (10 mins)

Presenter: Clare North (Teck)

- Presentation followed by Q&A

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)
 - Highlights from the program areas and open questions (**All**)

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

- Round table contributions & questions.

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

- THEP Annual Lessons Learned Partner Report (PDF attached)
- Lead Safe Renovation Program review and planning for improvements (prior presentation)
- Onboarding Guide soft launch
- Communities of Practice meeting held March 11, 2026.
- Special Project: Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments Conference sessions

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

2026 THEC MEETING DATES

- June 11th
- Sept 10th tbc

LSR PROGRAM REVIEW: SUMMARY OVERVIEW FOR THEC

APRIL 15, 2026

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

THEP's Lead Safe Renovation (LSR) Program was established in recognition that renovation activity in older homes, particularly those built before 1990, can disturb encapsulated lead (Pb) sources and create exposure risks for young children and pregnant women. The program has historically focused on education and the provision of free lead-safety supplies to support safer do-it-yourself renovation practices.

Teck has developed a Wide Area Remediation Plan (WARP) to address impacts related to historical air emissions from the smelter in Trail. The WARP states that THEP "will support the Medical Health Officer (MHO) recommendation as a holistic approach to further reduce children's exposure to Pb in the community" and that THEP's programs, including Built Environments, form part of "comprehensive programs required to support the MHO recommendation to reduce children's potential exposure to Pb." The proposed updates to LSR are grounded in this framing: **built environment programming, including lead in paint, is an explicit and recognized component of THEP's contribution to reducing children's lead exposure in Trail.**

This LSR review was undertaken to assess the program's relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with current evidence and community needs. It draws on a **review of national and international lead-management standards, analysis of program and media data, local paint screening data, and questionnaires and engagements.**

WHAT THE EVIDENCE TELLS US

In guidance from Health Canada, U.S. HUD, EPA, and OSHA, four core areas of lead-safe renovation practice are consistently emphasized: **isolation and containment of work areas; appropriate renovation and abatement approaches; safer paint removal methods that minimize dust generation; and rigorous dust control and cleaning, in particular the widely recommended three-step process (HEPA vacuum → wet wash → HEPA vacuum).** Emerging standards, including updated U.S. dust clearance levels effective from 2025, reflect a growing shift toward encouraging basic lead-safe practices even for small jobs, recognizing that any measurable lead dust poses a risk.

WHAT THEP DATA SHOWS

Local paint screening data make a compelling case for the program's continued focus on pre-1990 homes. Exterior paint testing found 90% of pre-1990 homes tested had at least one instance of lead in paint in poor condition, representing a potential exposure risk for young children. **Homes built before 1990 and located in areas closest to the smelter typically have the highest exposure risk, considering both older housing stock and historical emissions.**

LSR supply records show that residents place the greatest value on **basic protective and containment materials** (respirators, poly sheeting, tarps, and tape).

Online engagement on the THEP website with LSR videos and the supply registration form remains low, suggesting that **digital resources are not reaching their intended audiences effectively**.

WHAT WE HEARD

Program teams, staff from partner organizations, and THEC participants broadly support the purpose of the LSR Program and recognize its value. Several consistent themes emerged:

- **In-person engagement** is significantly more effective than online-only interactions to ensure residents understand and correctly use supplies.
- The program is **not widely known** outside existing THEP networks.
- Provision of free supplies is highly valued, but residents often **need clearer guidance** on how and when to use them.
- **Uptake** of interior paint screening has been lower than anticipated. Understanding and addressing the barriers to uptake is an important part of improving the program's ability to identify and respond to paint-related risks.
- Program delivery is vulnerable to **staff capacity constraints**.
- Data collection on LSR supply provision exists but was not consistently digitized.
- Community partners expressed a desire to be more actively involved but noted they lack the **training and information** needed to promote the program confidently.

PROPOSED UPDATES

Based on the LSR review findings and a strategy focus group held in February 2026, four proposed directions for updating the built environments focus area were developed:

1. **Continue and strengthen education and supply provision**, focusing on practical guidance for DIY renovators and contractors, and increasing awareness of potential lead exposure among builders, local government, and health and safety officials.
2. **Move towards a formalized prioritization approach** that directs the most intensive LSR supports to households where exposure risk is greatest: homes with paint exposure risks in areas children frequent; households with children with elevated Blood Lead Levels; and socioeconomically vulnerable families. The approach will tailor LSR supports based on unique needs, rather than implementing a 'one size fits all' approach.
3. **Continue to embed LSR into the Healthy Families Healthy Homes (HFHH) program**. HFHH home visits are already trusted, in-home touchpoints and are the natural vehicle for continuing to identify potential paint and renovation risk and deliver targeted

education and supports. The continued integration of LSR into HFHH also presents an opportunity to strengthen primary prevention focusing on the potential lead exposure pathways in the built environment.

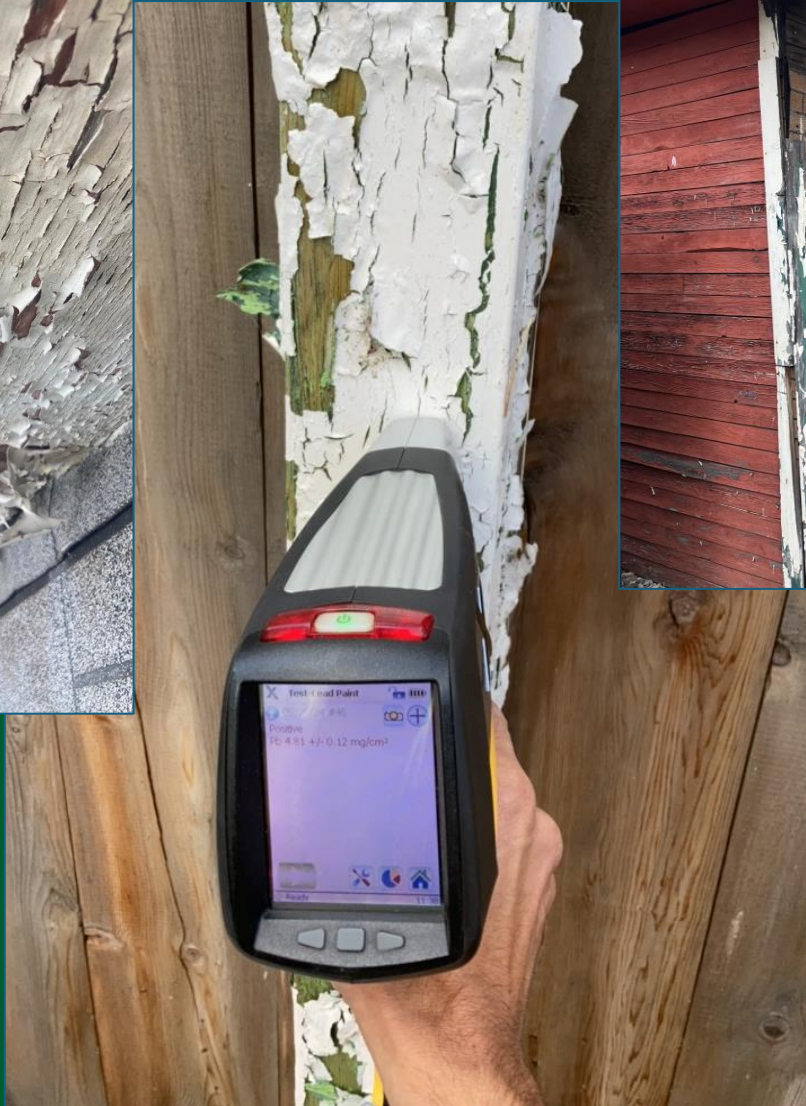
4. **Adopt an advocacy role** by supporting the MHO, elected officials, and building inspection units to champion lead-in-paint and LSR messaging in the community and beyond.

These directions represent a combination of new work (particularly around formalized prioritization and advocacy) and enhancements to what is already being done through the LSR and Healthy Homes programs.

Review of Lead (Pb) in Exterior Paint: Findings and Recommendations

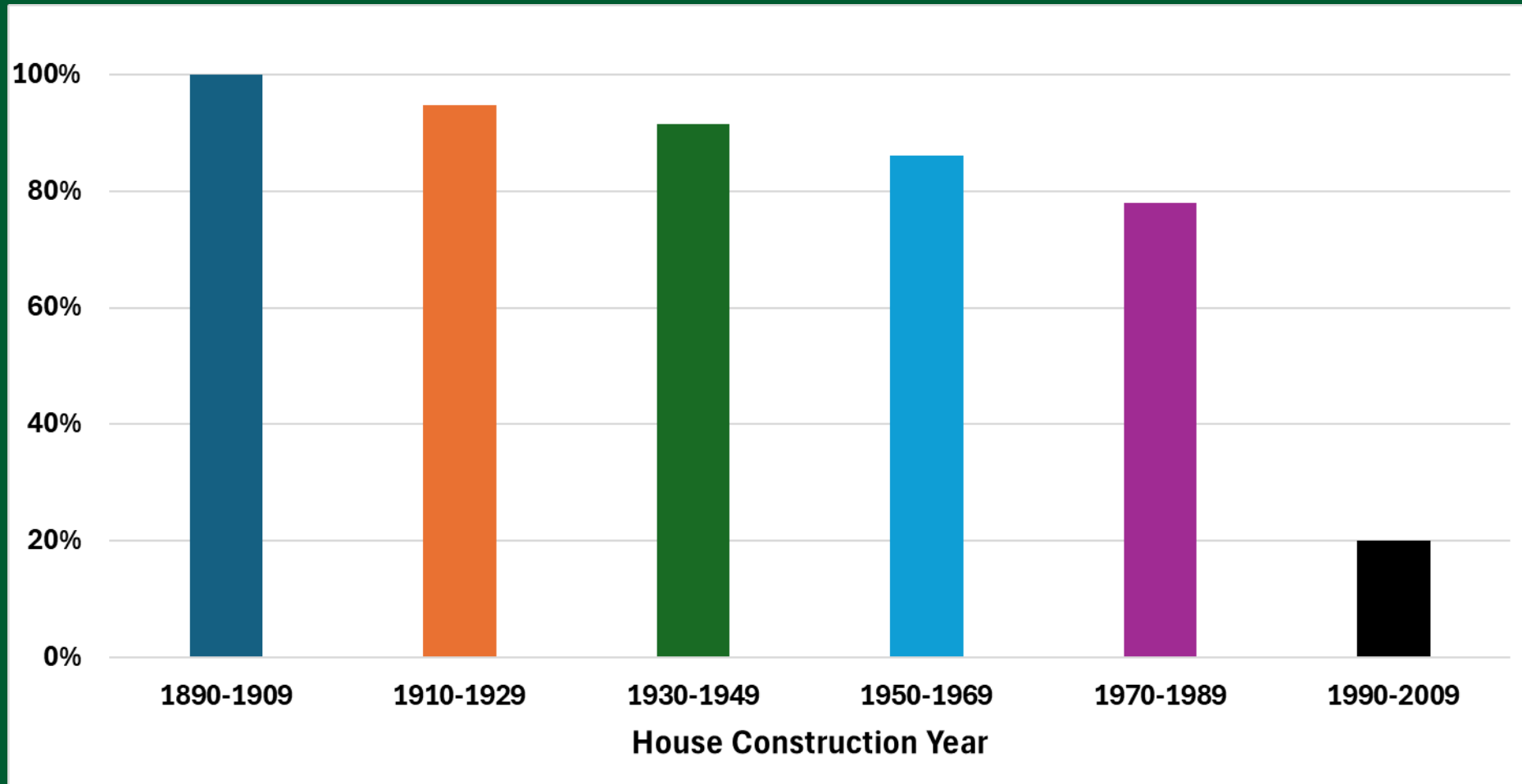
Presented to THEC

April 15, 2026



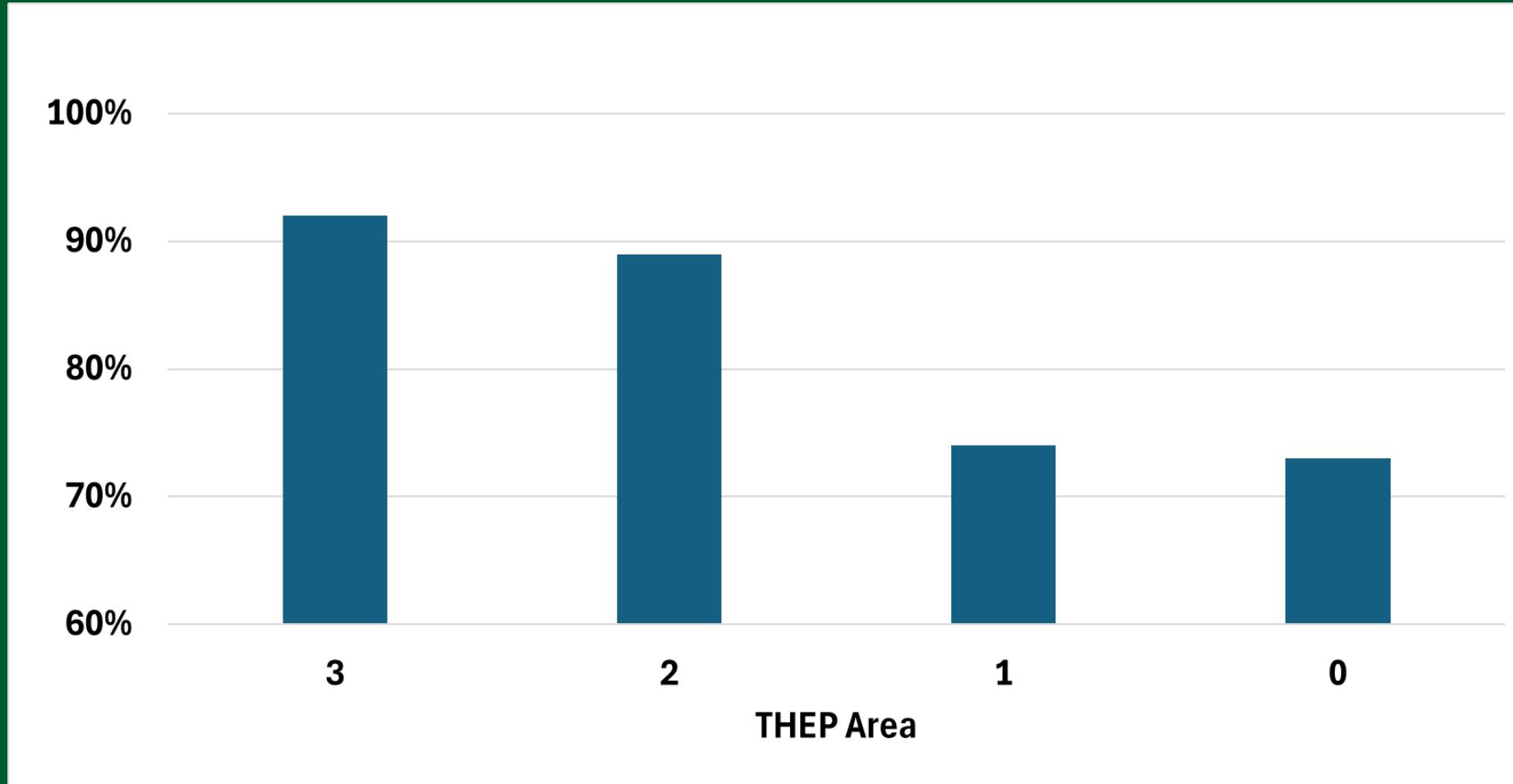
Results:

Potential exposure to Pb from paint (%) by year of house construction



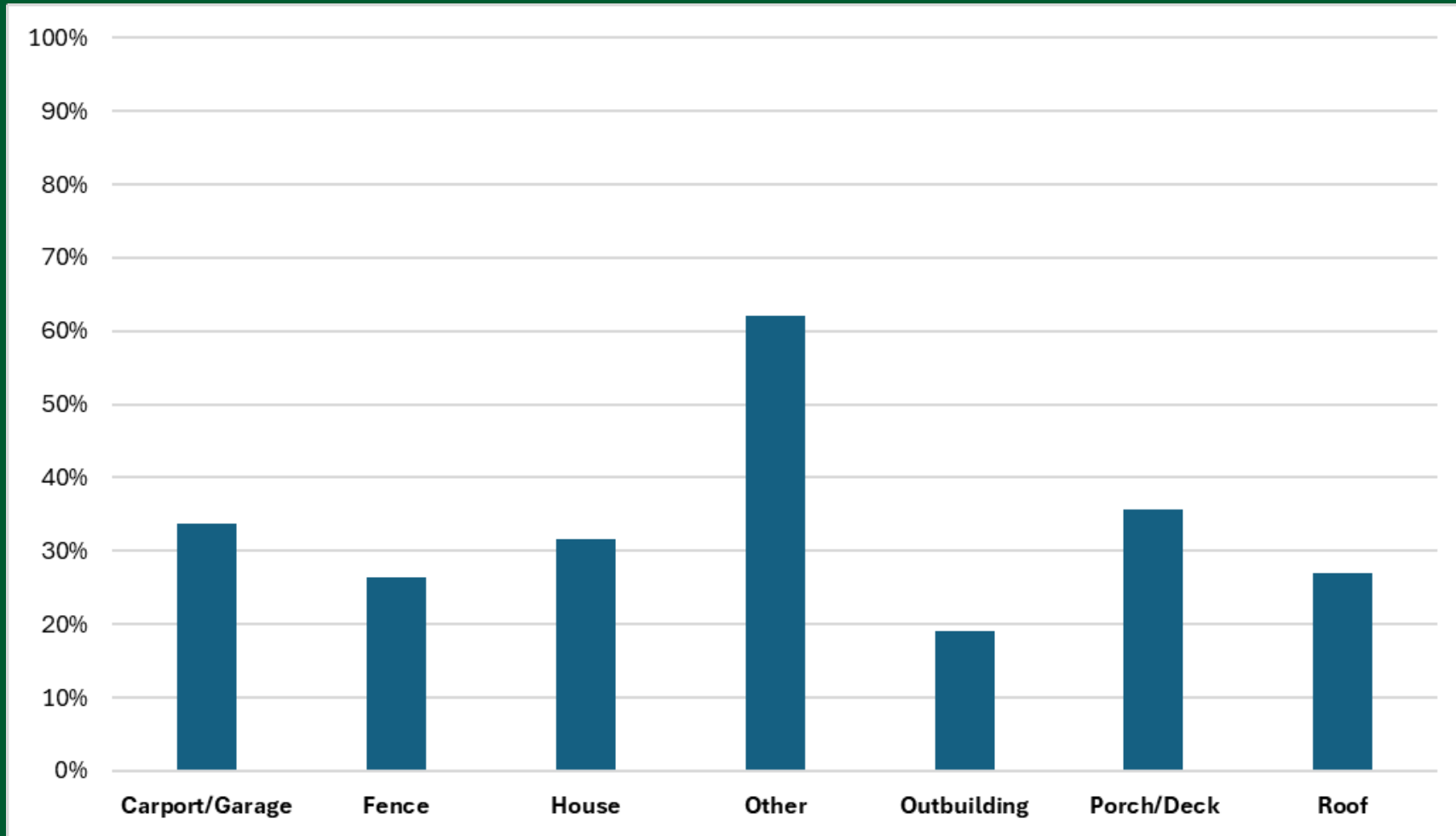
Results:

Potential exposure to Pb from paint (%) by THEP Area



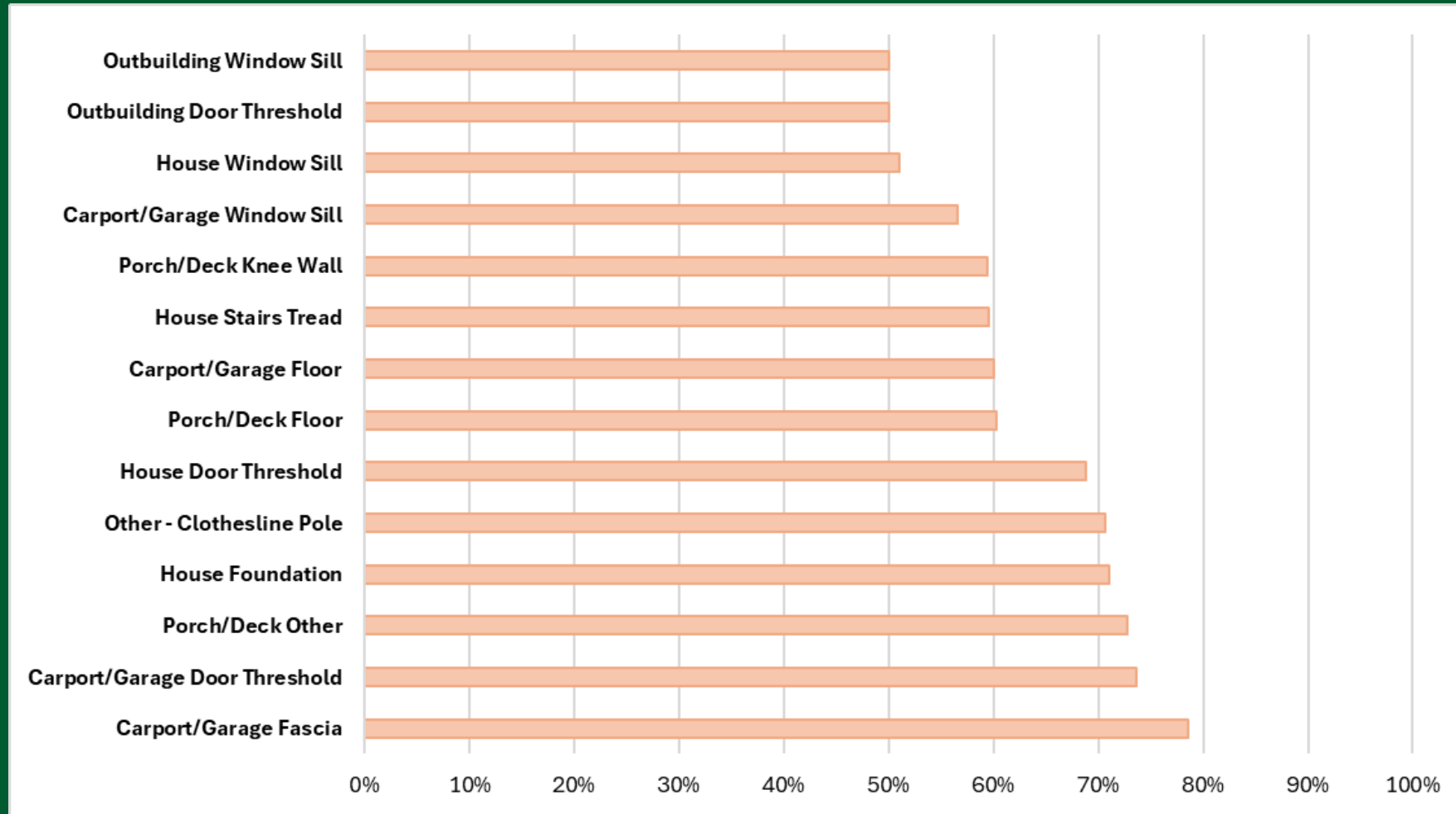
Results:

Prevalence of Pb in paint and potential exposure (%) by property structure



Results:

Structural components with greatest potential Pb exposure (%)



Results:

Properties with average soil Pb less than 400 ppm

THEP Area	Total Number of Properties	Properties with Potential Exposure (%)	Avg of 95% UCLM Paint Pb (ppm)
0	21	71%	1522
1	49	67%	2460
2	79	85%	2088
3	149	93%	3550
Average		85%	2405

Recommendations

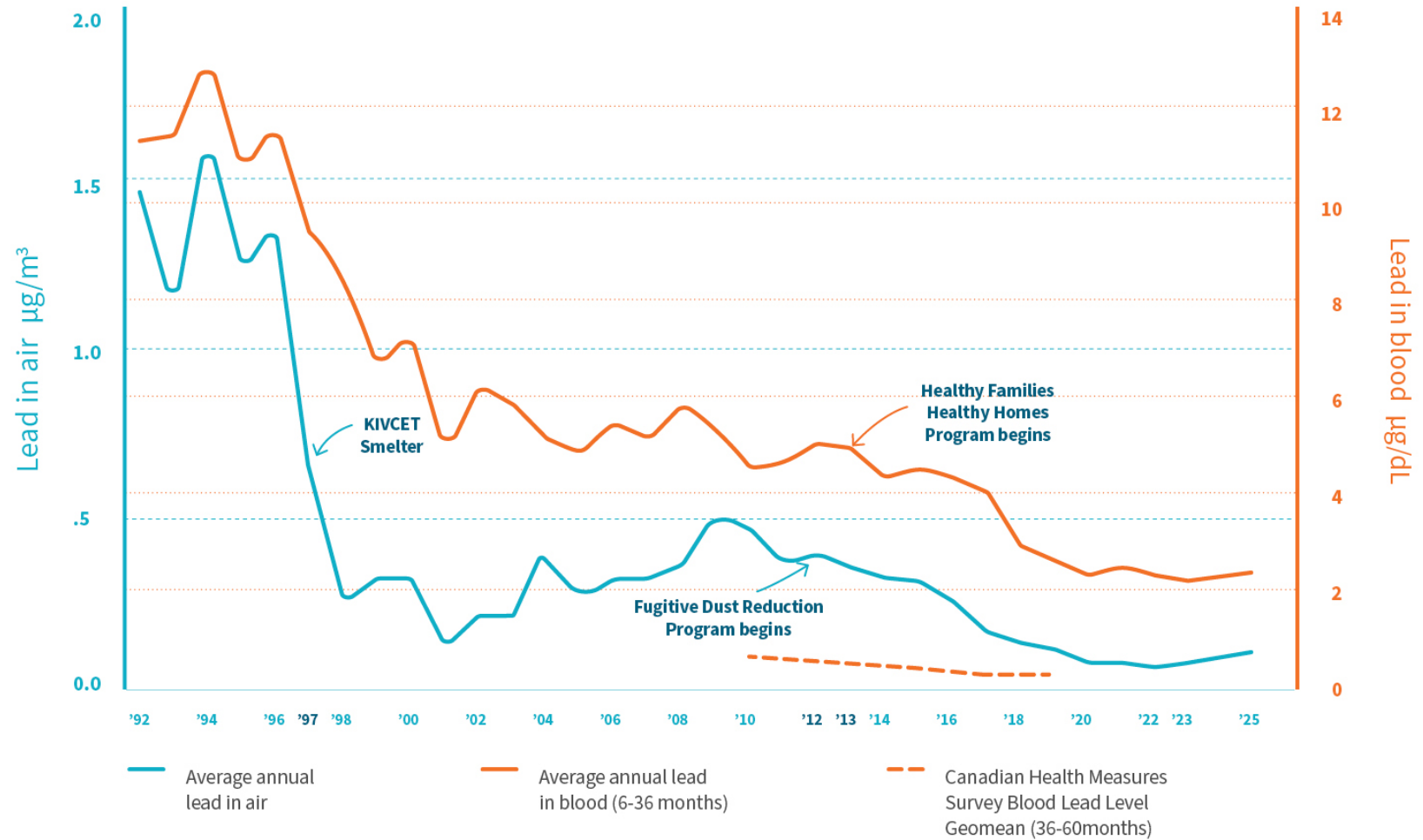
- Continue testing exterior paint as part of THEP programs.
- Focus on paint management considerations during soil management planning.
- Consider streamlining SPS efforts by prioritizing high-risk structures and high-friction components during screening.
- Expand LSR education and community outreach initiatives, with a focus on higher-risk areas with older housing.
- Encourage interior paint testing for families with young children

Updates To The Lead Safe Renovation Program

What we're doing, why it matters, and what's next

Why Are We Updating The Lead Safe Renovation Program?

Annual average for lead in community air and children's blood
(1992-2025, Trail, B.C.)



Strengthening THEP's Built Environments Focus Area

The Lead-Safe Renovation program is being updated and strengthened. This is not totally new - it builds on the great work already being done through Healthy Homes and Healthy Families visits.

Focusing support
on where it's most
needed

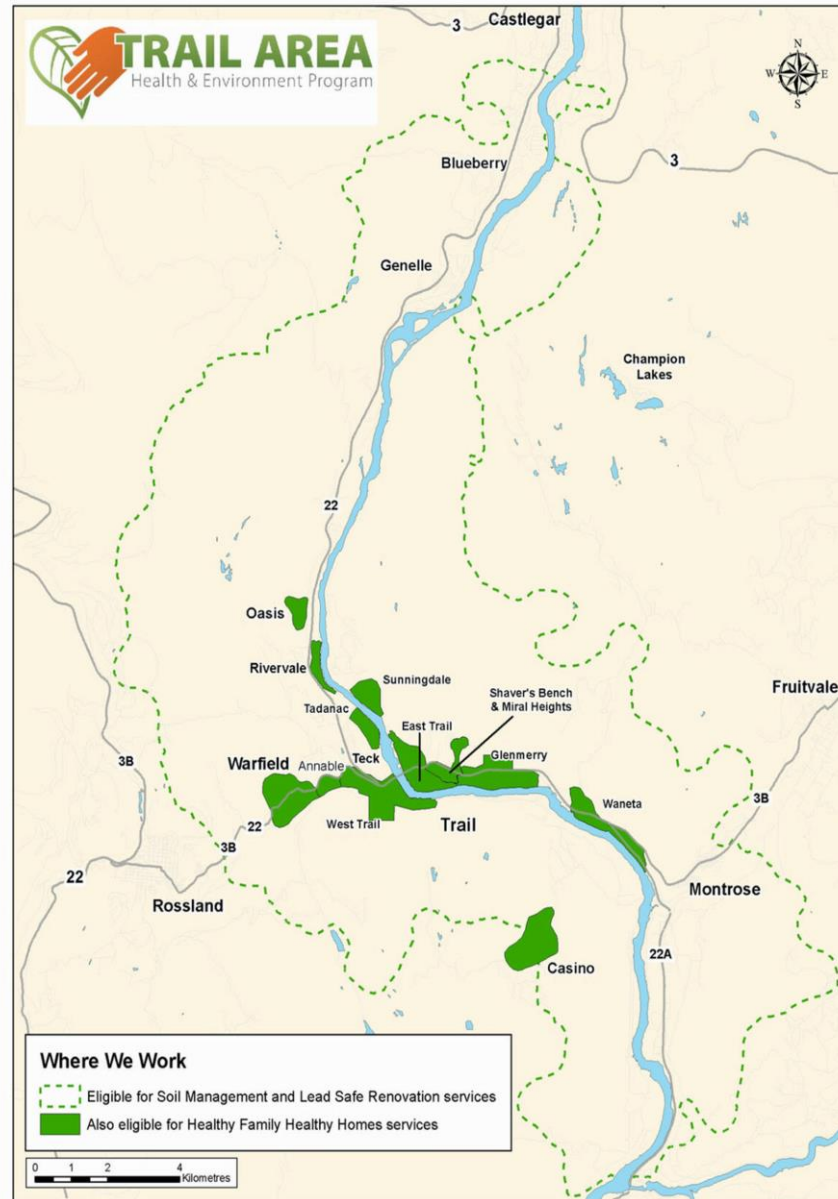
Ensuring LSR is
more visible &
integrated into
THEP programs

Continuing
education and
supplies for DIY
renovators

Raising awareness
more broadly &
engaging
contractors

Priority Focus:

- Areas closest to the smelter.
- Areas with the oldest housing stock.
- Areas where children have higher BLLs.



What's Happening Next?

In the coming months:

- Updating educational materials
- Optimizing types of support & supplies offered
- Proposed updates to future THEP Strategic Directions Plan
- Re-engaging with midwives and health providers
- Engaging local contractors and RDKB officials

Over the next year:

- Updating resources for families and contractors
- Working with partners to explore funding options
- Ongoing review of how the revised approach is working
- Supporting the MHO to take a public advocacy role on lead in paint

Questions?

REPORTS TO FOLLOW:

- AIR
- HEALTH
- COMMUNITY PROGRAM OFFICE
- THEP Annual Lessons Learned (2025)

Air Quality Report – April 2026

The THEC Air Quality Report provides an update on levels of Pb and SO₂ in community air based on THEP’s current priorities related to ambient air.

1. Lead in Air:

The chart in Figure 1 shows the 3-month rolling average for lead in airborne dust at Butler Park (blue line), in comparison to the US EPA standard (green dashed line). 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 airborne dust levels measured at Butler Park and Birchbank meet the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³ on a 3-month average. The variability in the data reflects the influence of emissions and weather including dominant wind direction and precipitation. Read THEP’s Lead (Pb) [Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

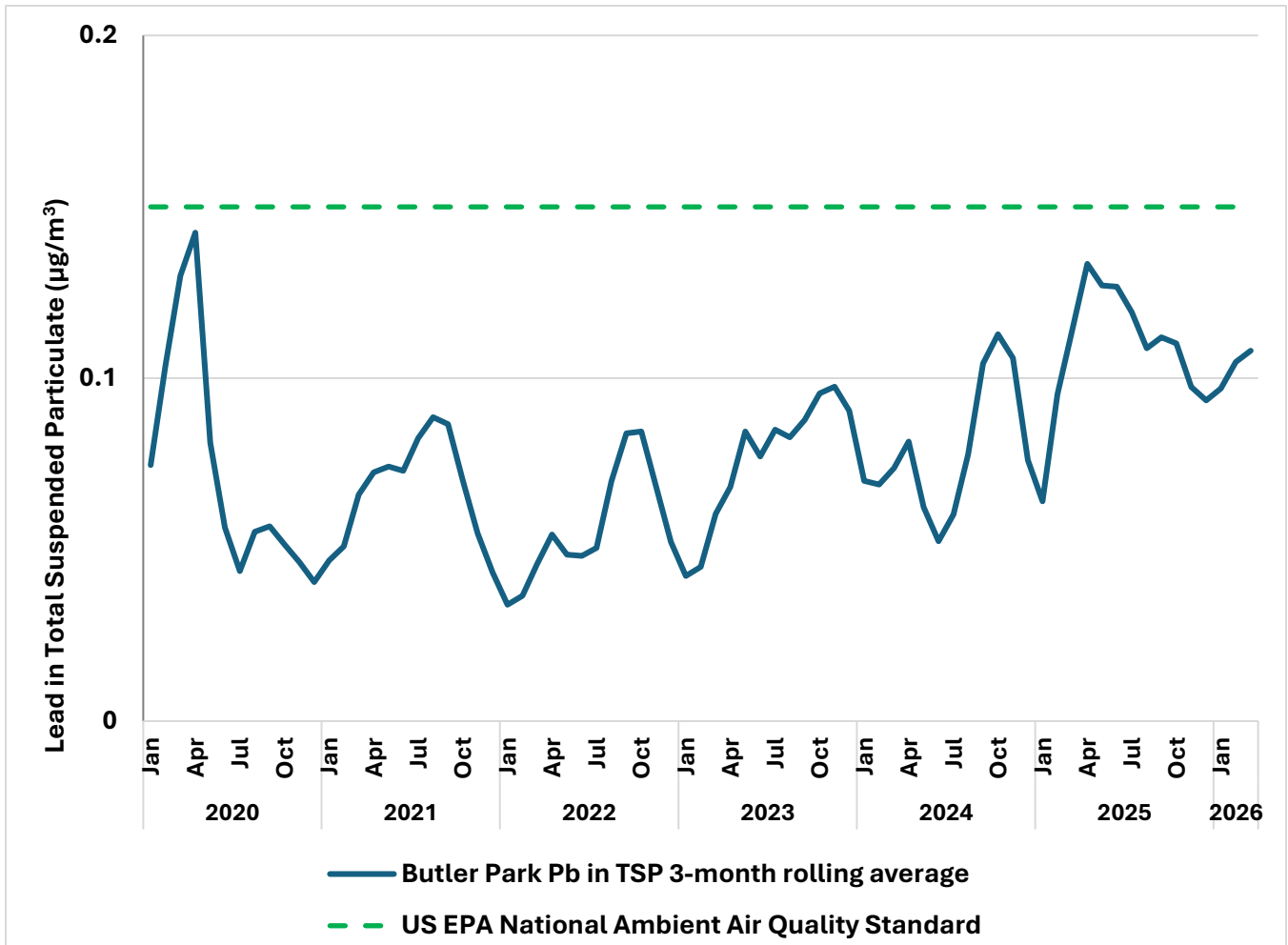


Figure 1: 3-month rolling average lead in total suspended particulate at Butler Park station (measured bi-daily)

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 in the Trail area – Birchbank, Butler Park, Columbia Gardens and Haley Park. The Haley Park monitoring station replaced the nearby Warfield monitoring station in 2023. 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 charts below provide SO₂ hourly data from Butler Park, Birchbank and Warfield/Haley Park stations for 2016 – 2026 year-to-date, 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. Early in a given year, the year-to-date values presented in the charts below may be variable compared to the previous years with whole year data due to the influence of weather conditions in winter months. Values would be expected to become more similar to previous years over the course of the year.

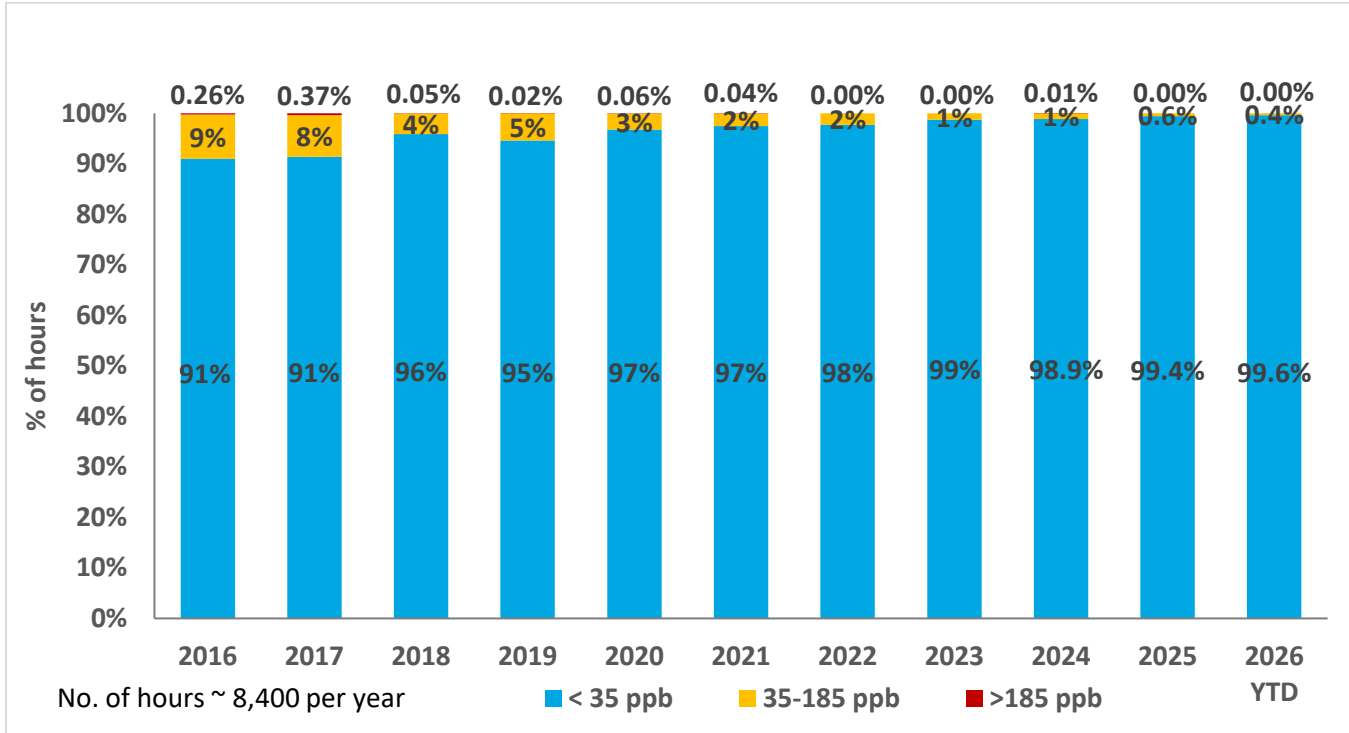


Figure 2: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Butler Park

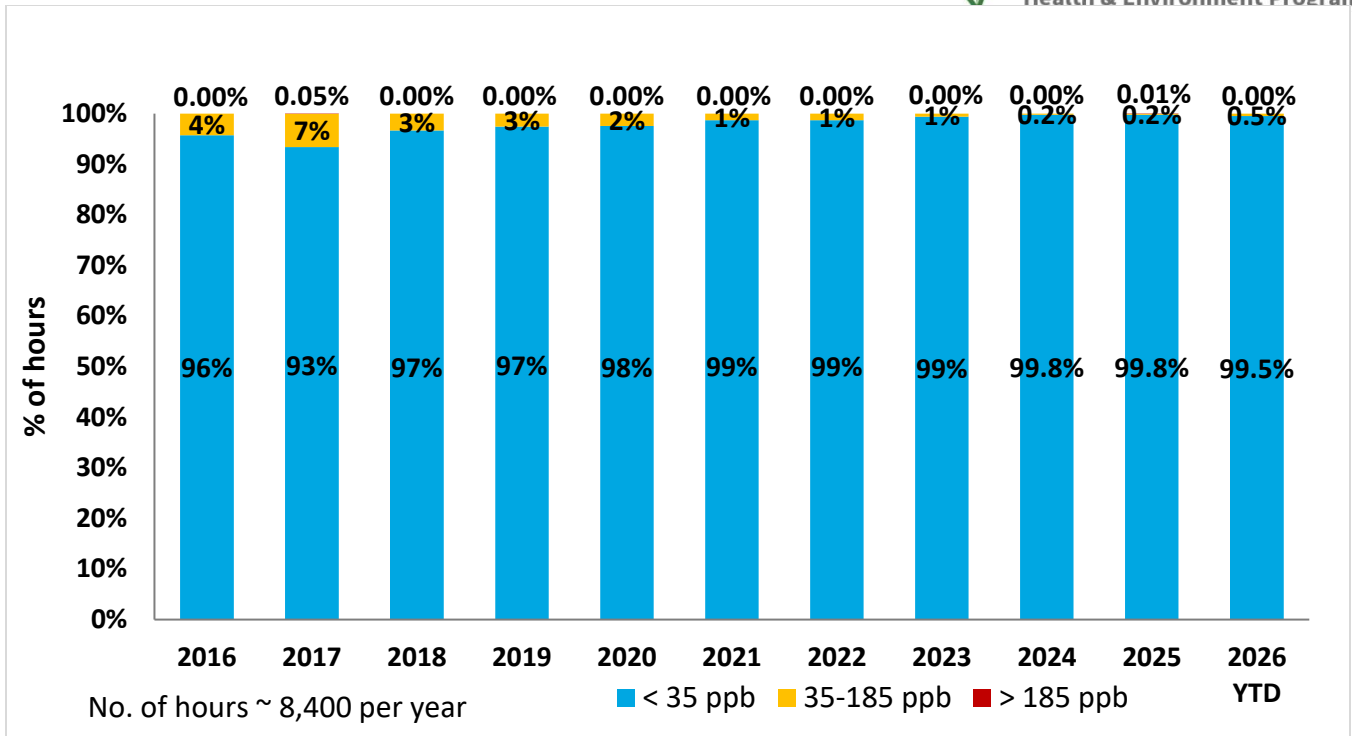


Figure 3: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Birchbank

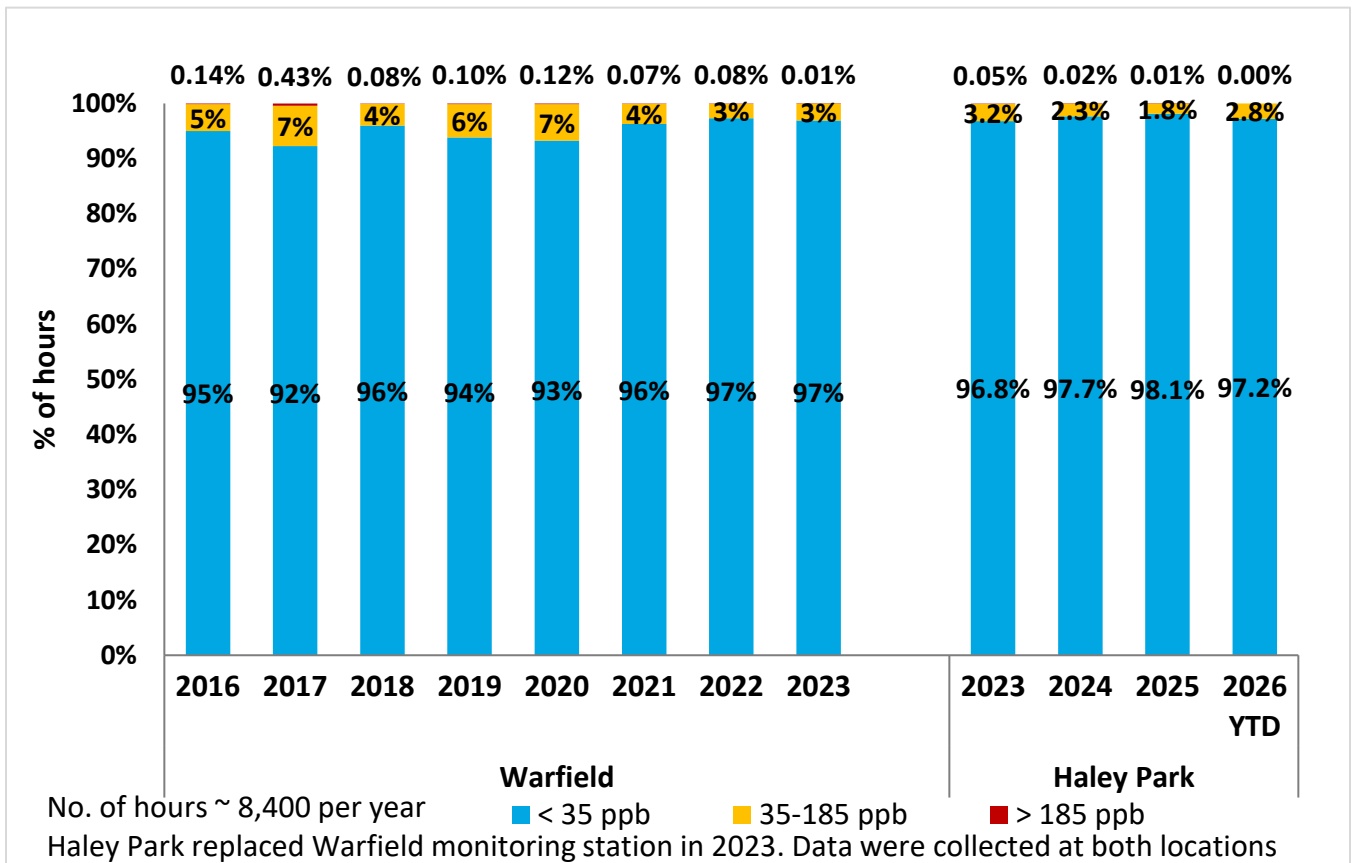


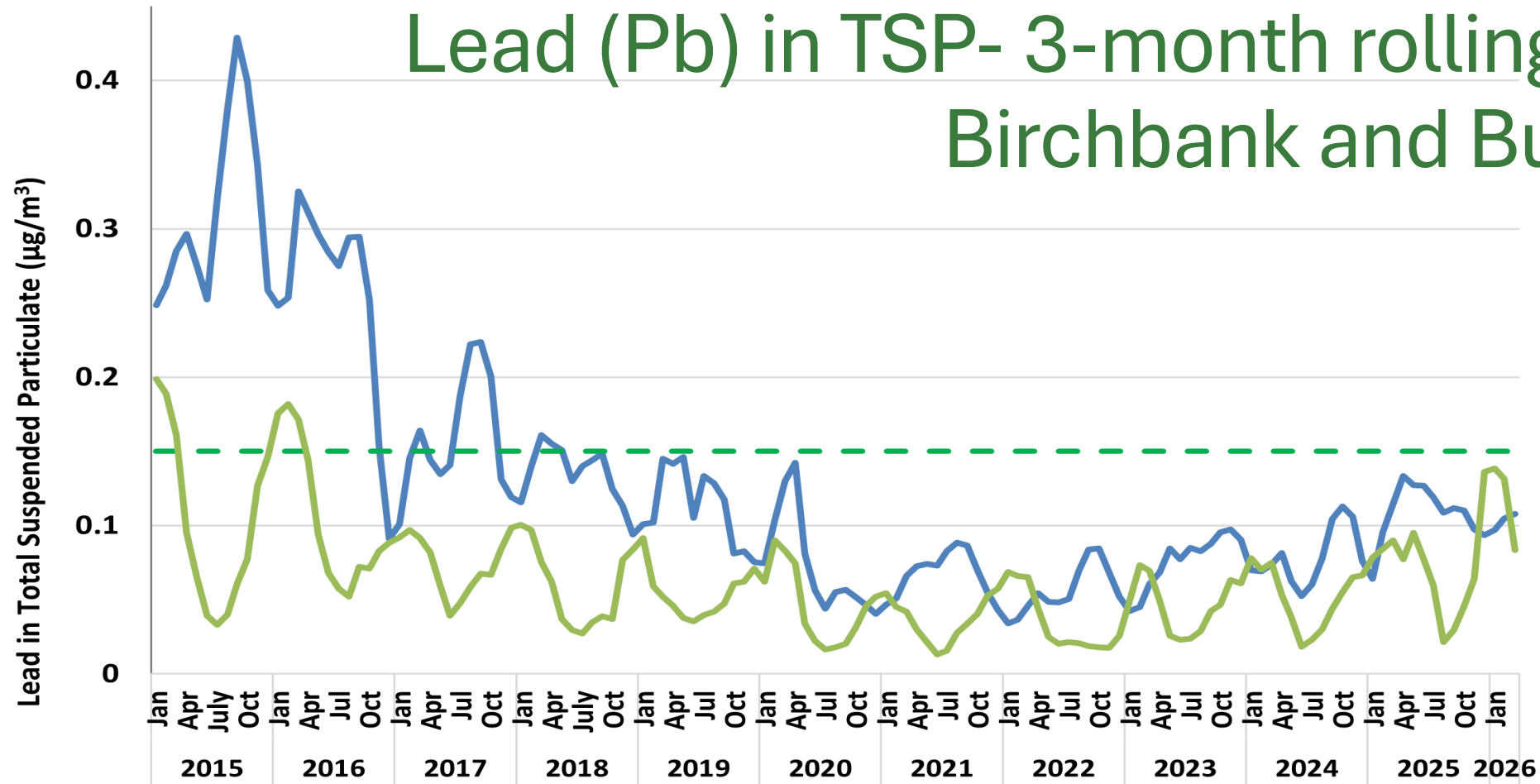
Figure 4: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Warfield/Haley Park



Figure 5: Teck Community Air Monitoring Stations

Residents who have concerns about air quality are encouraged to call the Teck Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817, a phone line answered 24 hours a day.

Lead (Pb) in TSP- 3-month rolling average Birchbank and Butler Park



— Butler Park Pb in TSP 3-month rolling average
 - - - US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard
— Birchbank Pb in TSP 3-month rolling average



Trail Area Health & Environment Committee
Air Quality Working Group
Terms of Reference (updated June 2020; Nov 2022 and Jan 2026)

Background:

The Air Quality Working Group (AQWG) provides a forum to discuss air quality in a dedicated setting separate from the regular Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) meetings. The AQWG is intended to advance understanding of the state of the ambient air quality in our community through discussion of air quality matters related to public health and the environment. The AQWG also provides a forum for discussions around aesthetic concerns, which do not have a dedicated space for dialogue. Since the AQWG's inception in 2013, multiple topics have been discussed, both regulatory and non-regulatory in nature. The AQWG may make recommendations to the THEC regarding air quality or aesthetic initiatives, being mindful of regulations and permits in place. The members of the AQWG have different areas of expertise and bring different perspectives to the Group's discussion in order to advance understanding of air quality in our community. The AQWG reports to the THEC.

Objectives:

1. To gain a shared understanding of current and emerging air quality issues in the community.
2. To work together on developing air quality messaging and communications products for recommendation to THEC and other identified stakeholders.
3. [To provide recommendations for milestones related to air quality in THEP's strategic direction documents and help track progress toward these milestones.](#)
4. To be a forum for discussion of community concerns beyond traditional air quality definitions including, but not limited to, aesthetics.
5. To make recommendations to the THEC as needed.

Definitions:

- Air quality: Levels of air pollutants that are directly related to the health of people and the environment.
- Aesthetics: Considerations include qualitative visual quality, odour and noise.

Members:

- City of Trail (Mayor or designate)

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee

 City Hall, 1394 Pine Avenue, Trail, BC, Canada V1R 4E6  250.368.3256  programs@thep.ca

 thep.ca



- Community Members
- Ministry of Environment & Parks
- Teck
- Interior Health
- THEC Lead Facilitator

Deleted: Climate Change Strategy

Subject matter experts will be invited to participate as needed to help address specific topics.

*A Chair should be designated annually with agreement from the current Working Group members.

How We Work Together:

The AQWG is collaborative and attempts to reach consensus when making recommendations. Input will be sought from all members. While consensus may not always be reached, there is inherent value in meeting in this dedicated setting to share, learn and build an understanding amongst all members. Work plans will be developed as required.

Meetings:

The AQWG will meet quarterly or as needed between THEC meetings. Meetings will be virtual with the option to meet in Trail with video conferencing.

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Minutes:

Minutes will record main topics of conversation and action items to allow for open discussion on issues. Where agreement is not reached, the minutes will record the degree of consensus and divergent views.

Reporting & Deliverables:

The AQWG will provide updates and recommendations at the THEC meetings via a regular AQWG report to be delivered by the AQWG Chair and/or his/her delegate(s). Presentations will be incorporated as necessary.

FAMILY HEALTH REPORT

April 15, 2026

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Healthy Family Visits
2. Community Outreach
3. Blood Lead Clinics

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Healthy Family Visits
 - 27 Healthy Family Visits completed so far in 2026
2. Community Outreach
 - Cecilee continuing to attend Muffins & Munchkins monthly
 - Meghan has been attending Building Beautiful Babies monthly & Cecilee will start when Meghan transitions to new position
 - Cecilee facilitated session of Baby Talk Program at Public Health
 - Cecilee started Spring Daycare/Preschool outreach with Wendy from CPO
 - Handwashing station at Public Health Kindergarten Fair
3. Blood Lead Clinics
 - Winter Clinic 2026 was a success
 - 71 kids attended
 - Enhanced Support follow-up offered to all children with results >3.5ug/dL from Winter 2026 clinic.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM OFFICE REPORT

April 15, 2026

Spring is off to a great start for the CPO. The Soil Management team has been assessing ground cover and sampling soil at City Parks, supporting vegetable garden replacements, and planning soil management at qualifying properties. The Healthy Homes team has also been busy. The team hosted a booth at the Easter Market, provided THEP outreach at daycare facilities, and are meeting with lots of families at in-home visits. We're excited for a full and fun spring season.

1. Soil Management Program:

- Soil Management Kick-off
 - Soil management kicked off on April 13; 3 contractors supporting soil management work this year
- Yard Improvements:
 - Ground Cover Improvements: 1 soil pick-up has been completed
 - Lawn Care: spring fertilizer treatments will start the last week of April at properties that received soil management in 2025
- Soil Assessment:
 - Soil testing: 3 residential properties and 1 City Park have received soil testing; 74 properties remain
 - Ground Cover Evaluations: 1 property completed; 81 properties remain
- Soil Replacement:
 - 50 properties have been offered soil management to date
 - Full soil replacement is currently underway at 3 properties
 - 8 vegetable gardens have been replaced to date
- Standardized Paint Testing:
 - Exterior paint testing¹ has been conducted at 1 property that received soil management or soil assessments.

¹ Paint testing is a term used in lieu of paint screening for public communications purposes. Paint testing requires sending paint chips to a laboratory and results are more precise. For the purpose of THEP, paint testing means THEP screened viable paint in a home using XRF technology on-site. The XRF provides an immediate reading for lead levels in a painted surface.

2. Healthy Homes:

- Healthy Homes (HH):
 - 17 Healthy Homes (HH) visits completed to date in 2026
 - Interior paint testing has been completed at two Healthy Homes properties to date in 2026
- Enhanced Support (ES):
 - In collaboration with Interior Health (IH), the HH team has been working to support families with children identified as ES following the Winter 2026 blood lead clinic.
 - All Residential Lead Inspection reports have been sent to homeowners and verbal reports shared with residents.

3. Lead (Pb) Safe Renovation:

- 9 residents have accessed free supplies to date in 2026.

4. Outreach and Engagement:

- CPO and IH supported the Children's Lead Testing Clinic on February 23, 25 and March 1.
- CPO attended Building Beautiful Babies on April 2 to reconnect with families and share primary prevention messaging.
- CPO hosted a booth at the IncrEDIBLE Easter Market on April 4.
- CPO has temporarily stepped down as a board member of the Family Action Network (FAN) but will continue to attend Early Year Committee meetings hosted by FAN.
- CPO has participated in the Navigation Table meetings.
- CPO and IH visited registered daycares to share THEP messaging on April 8 and 13.

TRAIL AREA HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (THEP) LESSONS LEARNED & NEXT STEPS FROM THEP PARTNERS, FEBRUARY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The 2025 reflections reinforce THEP's commitment to being **inclusive, collaborative, transparent, and community-centered**. Addressing lead exposure in the Trail area continues to require a holistic approach: one that considers the **built indoor and outdoor environment**, evolving science, program interconnectedness, and the lived experience of families.

We recognize that prevention is not driven by a single action or a single source, and that progress happens when all parts of the system work together.

As blood lead levels in children reach lower levels, the work becomes more nuanced and requires holistic strategies and ongoing collaboration.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1. A holistic understanding of lead exposure is essential

Holistic consideration across all THEP focus areas is essential for continued progress. We are increasingly seeing that it is not the lead in soil or lead in air we need to worry about in isolation, but rather the **combined effect of multiple small sources**, including historical lead from deteriorating paint and legacy dust, in our built environments. As blood lead levels decline, **small and cumulative sources, become increasingly important**. Each program area provides a critical piece of the puzzle.

- Data illustrates that lead in paint is prevalent and continues to require attention.
- Lead in settled dust, in soil, and in paint are all potential pathways.
- In 2025, one family's example of removing lead-based paint before soil management illustrated how coordination across programs enhances positive outcomes.

Deeper integration, refined analysis, and sustained partnership are necessary in this complex setting.

2. Intentional engagement increases blood lead clinic participation

Participation in blood lead (BL) clinics is on the rise after a period of declining attendance since the COVID pandemic. These gains demonstrate that **intentional effort translates into improved health monitoring and prevention.**

Examples of efforts made by outreach teams:

- Concerted focus on engagement, improved communication and remaining adaptive.
- Staff skill development improves service delivery.

3. Meeting families where they are matters

Engagement is not linear. Readiness of families to engage differs and information “makes sense” to people at different times. However, being available, patient, and consistent builds trust. Being visible and present in the community are vital in relationship building and influence exposure prevention outcomes.

Examples of meeting families where they are include:

- Respecting timing, reducing barriers, and providing multiple ways to access information.
- Accepting that progress looks different for everyone.

4. Difficult access properties: A challenge and a win

A high percentage of prioritized soil management properties in 2025 were difficult to access. With coordinated effort, reaching properties is feasible and barriers due to access can be overcome. This represents a significant success and demonstrates perseverance in action.

Examples of efforts to reach properties include:

- Using technology such as soil conveyors, custom built soil chutes, hand digging, and craning equipment into steep residential yards where feasible.

LOOKING AHEAD

Onboarding is ongoing and relational

With new people joining THEP partner organizations, formalizing the onboarding should be a priority. It should not start and stop with orientation: relationships must be central and internal communications must support transitions.

Transaction costs (time, effort) are real, but investing in relationships strengthens resilience across staff turnover. There are opportunities to explore living onboarding documents;

technology-supported onboarding (e.g., interactive tools, videos, quizzes, guides); as well as knowledge capture and transfer strategies.

Documentation is not enough: sharing is equally important

Documenting THEP's work matters, and sharing our work matters just as much. We must communicate what we are doing; explain what we are learning; clarify evolving science; and influence broader provincial guidance where appropriate. Different people absorb information differently and our communications should reflect that reality.

Specific areas of work for 2026:

1. Clarify THEP's role in lead in paint and embed in updated LSR program.
2. Strengthen public communication on dust and its various forms.
3. Meet people where they are at, including using modern communication tools.
4. Start to develop the next strategic plan aligned with WARP/MHO recommendations.
5. Continue to prioritize community engagement.
6. Strengthen onboarding and internal communication.

Progress in complex environmental health work is rarely driven by one intervention. It is adaptive, collaborative, relationship-based, holistic, and persistent. Each action - large or small - contributes to healthier children, stronger families, and a more informed community.