Ontario's Residential Wood Combustion Program 2007-08

Ontario Work 2007/08

- About 20 workshops planned in mostly rural municipalities in Ontario for municipal staff and elected officials
- Project to develop an inventory of municipal by-laws in Ontario related to wood burning activities
- Development of an OWB brochure to educate the Canadian public about the concerns and practices with these types of heaters
- Burn It Smart workshops get Continuing Education Unit (CEU) by the Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario

Ontario work 2007/08 cont'd

- EC conducted a survey on the use of OWBs in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec
- The survey was very informative and used local fire departments as the source.
- In Ontario, the responses provided us with the following results:
 - >60% indicated that they were aware of OWB being used in their community
 - >3000 OWBs in operation in Ontario, most likely more.
 - Typical complaints relate to the smoke and visibility to neighbors
 - Quite a few OWBs have been a problem in the community for 2- 6 years

Ontario work 2007/08 cont'd

- A lot of communities have or are planning to address the concerns through by-laws ranging from use restrictions to outright bans.
- It is planned to expand the OWB survey nationally.
- The Burn It Smart educational DVD has been used for Change-out programs in the US
- Attended a number of public events to promote the workshops to municipal leaders to get their staff involved who can promote the Burn It Smart ideas and concepts to their constituents.



For more information:

Victor Li Environment Canada - Ontario Region victor.li@ec.gc.ca (416) 739-5801