



NORTHEAST EDMONTON RESIDENTS STILL WAITING FOR ANSWERS ABOUT FORMER DOMTAR SITE

(Source: CBC News) It's been almost a year and a half since a northeast Edmonton neighbourhood was told about some higher-than-average cancer rates among former and current residents.

The Homesteader homeowners still don't have any answers.

And neither, at least for the time being, do Alberta health authorities, according to a message posted on the province's Homesteader health website.

The province said the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the work of an investigation seeking explanations for a higher number of breast, endometrial and lung cancers found among people who have lived for 10 years or more in the neighbourhood, located near the site of the former Domtar wood-treatment plant.

The results were supposed to come out this spring but now there is no timeline as to when the results from the study will be made public.

The provincial government announced the elevated rates of three types of cancer in the area in March 2019. Resident Dennis Kuchar has been waiting since then to learn more.

"There's a lot of questions," he said. "They talked about cancer and it was a vague answer.... They say more cancer here than anywhere else, they don't know why but it just is.

"We want to know, well, what is it?"

The study is being done by Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The latter agency sent epidemiologists from its Canadian Field Epidemiology Program (CFEP) from May through October 2019.

"When CFEP left the field, AHS was still in the process of collecting data," Tammy Jarbeau, a spokesperson for the agency, told CBC News in an email.

The voluntary survey asked them about their medical and work history and if they had any access to the former Domtar site.

An initial analysis released in March 2019 found no difference in cancer rates in the area of the former creosote plant compared to other areas in Alberta — except for the three types of cancers, a 2019 news release said.

That analysis did find that, among people who had lived in the area for 10 years or more, there were:

- 34 cases of breast cancer in women, when 16 to 31 cases were expected among the Alberta population.
- 14 cases of endometrial cancer in women, when three to nine cases were expected.

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- 22 cases of lung cancer in men, when six to 14 cases would have been expected.

The field epidemiology investigation is meant to find the public health factors contributing to the three elevated cancer types in the area.

"It doesn't mean that living in the area has caused those things. It simply means there's an association," Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, said in 2019.

Hinshaw declined an interview with CBC News for this story.

Alberta Health did not provide comment before publication.

'Really big thing going on'

Fences bearing "Keep Out" signs have been up in the area for more than a year and have left residents with questions.

A dusty playground in the middle of the neighbourhood is overgrown with weeds as children are blocked from entering.

"In a newer neighbourhood like this, you shouldn't see signs that say 'Keep Out,'" said Kuchar. "It just feels strange."

"It makes it feel like there's some really big thing going on," added his wife, Tara Kuchar.

The fencing was put up around the former Domtar site after sample tests done by the province in 2017-18 found hazardous contaminants in the soil on the former site.

The province said in a 2019 news release that 183 samples from nearly 1,500 that were [analyzed](#) had levels of toxic chemicals that exceed health guidelines. The samples found dioxins, furans and other contaminants that exceed health guidelines.

In a [March 2019 update](#), AHS said a human health risk assessment was completed and shows "there are hazards to human health from the soil at the former Domtar site but there are ways to mitigate the risk arising as a result of this."

Fencing and dust control was introduced in the area to protect residents from potential exposure, Hinshaw [has said](#).

Mary-Ann Thurber, a city communications adviser, said in an email that the city understands how fencing around the parkette is "disappointing and frustrating" for residents.

"The City of Edmonton chose to fence off the parkette out of an abundance of caution to protect the area residents until Alberta Environment and Parks determines that the parkette is suitable for public use," she wrote. "The City of Edmonton is in contact with the province to encourage a decision."

Maureen Reagan, who lives in the nearby Overlanders neighbourhood, isn't concerned about the contamination in her neighbourhood, an older development a few kilometres away from the former Domtar site.

But she's frustrated with the lack of communication and with the giant fence behind her property.

Her home butts up against an area known as the Greenbelt, a city-owned urban park corridor between the Yellowhead Highway and Overlanders community.

The area was never owned by Domtar or used for wood processing.

However, some contamination from the former wood processing operations is located at significant depth in areas of the Greenbelt, according to the Greenbelt information [website](#).

The area, which used to be a community space that her children and others in the area would play in, is now nothing but tall grass, weeds and full of rodents, said the mother of seven.

"We were promised the bi-monthly updates; we've never received one of those," she said.

"The only way I am getting any information is occasionally they update their website. If they are done their job, we need the fence to come down so we can start to enjoy it again."

Thurber said an executive officer order issued by AHS forced the city to close off the Greenbelt area. The fence and signage has to remain until AHS removes the order, she said.

Remediation work

The Domtar site operated between 1924 and 1987, using creosote to preserve wood. The company did some remedial work on contaminated lands around the plant in 1994, before selling the site to 1510837 Alberta Ltd. in 2010.

The new owner and developer, Cherokee Canada, plans to turn the land into a residential development and is working with the province on remediation.

Alberta Environment and Parks did not respond to a request for comment.



A map of the former Domtar site, with contaminated areas outlined in grey. (Alberta Government)

Bonny Skene, regional public affairs manager with Domtar, told CBC News that the Ministry of Environment and Parks reviewed and accepted the Human Health Risk Assessment and the Site Specific Risk Assessment (SSRA) for the Greenbelt and Overlanders community in May.

"The SSRA indicates there is no elevated health risk associated with the site," she wrote. "We currently await finalized site specific criteria for the Greenbelt and the Overlanders community in order to finalize our remediation plan. Once this is complete, we will submit the plan to the ministry."

Cherokee Canada says on its Homesteader Responds website that "significant work" has been completed and that they are aiming for remediation work to be completed later this summer.

John Dill, managing director of Cherokee Canada, did not respond to requests for comment.

*WAGE FUNDING FOR EMPLOYERS COMMITTED TO CULTIVATING THE NEXT
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- Funding is for paid work terms. Work terms can be full time or part time from 6 – 16 weeks.
- Students gain valuable on-the-job experience
- Employers increase future talent pool and resource availability
- Students and Employers are required to find their own co-op placement
- Three sessions per year: Winter (January-April), Summer (May-August), Fall (September-December)
- Applications open 3 months prior to start of co-op session

Additional funding may be available for employers who hire student from one of the following groups:

- Women in STEM
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- First-year Students
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Host organizations may complete multiple applications for funding in the upcoming semester. Submit your application early to secure your funding. Once your funding is secured, you can begin your search for qualified, talented students to fill the position.

If you have not received contracts for your current approved placement please contact us at coop@eco.ca and we will complete the process.

BC FUNDS START OF TULSEQUAH MINE CLEAN-UP

(Source: North of 60 Mining News) Metal-laden waters draining from the past producing Tulsequah Chief Mine in northwestern British Columbia.

British Columbia has committed to invest up to C\$1.575 million (US\$1.2 million) for site preparation and studies to support early reclamation work at Tulsequah Chief, a historical mine site in western British Columbia that has been seeping acidic metal-laden water since the mine closed in 1957.

This legacy acid rock drainage – which was reaching the Tulsequah River, a tributary of the Taku River that flows into the Lynn Canal near Juneau – has been a concern for First Nations, regulators, and others in both British Columbia and Alaska.

For more than a year, provincial officials have been working with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, whose traditional territory spans the BC-Alaska border, to support the development of a conceptual closure and reclamation plan for the Tulsequah Chief Mine.

"The environmental issues at the Tulsequah Chief Mine site have gone on for too long," said BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Bruce Ralston. "But after working in partnership with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and the government of Alaska, I am pleased to see we now have a plan in place and can get to work on reclaiming the site."

The funding allotted by the province will allow for multiple critical activities to take place this summer.

Some of the first steps include replacing and repairing bridges, upgrading the access road, establishing an erosion protection berm, and repairing the existing airstrip. This work is required to prepare the site in order to address environmental, health and safety issues and undertake the long-term remediation.

"One of the benefits of the work on the reclamation plan is safeguarding the salmon, and the joint effort with the province has been key to reaching this stage of a plan," said John Ward, spokesperson for TRFN. "An integral part of the approach of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation is a responsible approach to industrial development. Future mining in the Taku River Tlingit First Nation territory is supported if it's a responsible and sustainable approach that's brought to the development."

The province and TRTFN will work together to contract a light detection and ranging sensor survey. The survey will get topographic information that is detailed enough to support further design work. It will also initiate a multi-year aquatics monitoring program and assess the potential short-term use of an interim water treatment plant already at site. Data provided by these efforts will be crucial to filling information gaps and determining next steps at the site, including remedial timelines.

"Taking action now is critical in order to begin to address the impacts of the former Tulsequah Chief Mine," said BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman. "Over the past year, we have been working closely with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and the government of Alaska to identify the right actions to properly remediate and close the site. This work will also create jobs, build capacity in the community and strengthen partnerships to manage the health of our shared waterways."

The closure and reclamation plan outlines a phased approach that involves a series of steps designed to reduce the ongoing contamination. It is designed to be flexible, so changes can be made once more information is gathered from the site.

BC said it is committed to ongoing collaboration with TRFN and engagement with Alaska in these efforts, while also fostering a well-regulated, sustainable, and world-class mining industry that provides opportunities for all British Columbians.

KEMESS UNDERGROUND PROJECT – PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED

(Source: BCEIA) **AUGUST 17, 2020** – The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is holding a public comment period as part of the post-decision phase for the [Kemess Underground Project](#), an underground gold-copper mine located approximately 250 kilometres north of Smithers and 430 kilometres northwest of Prince George, British Columbia.

In March 2017, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the Kemess Underground Project subject to legally-binding conditions which must be fulfilled by the proponent throughout the life of the project. These conditions include advising the Agency of any proposed changes to the project that may result in adverse environmental effects, and providing the Agency with an effects assessment of those changes.

On November 8, 2019, the proponent for the project, AuRico Metals Inc., submitted information to the Agency regarding proposed project changes, which include an increase in the project's ore production capacity, a modification to the design of the tailings storage facility, realignment of a surface route and an increase in truck traffic. The Agency's comment period is in response to these proposed project changes.

The Agency conducted an analysis of the environmental effects associated with the proponent's proposed project changes. The public and Indigenous groups are invited to review the Agency's [Analysis Report](#) and provide feedback on its recommended changes to the legally-binding conditions.

Written comments in either official language will be accepted **until September 17, 2020**.

The Agency recognizes that it is more challenging to undertake meaningful public engagement and Indigenous consultation in light of the circumstances arising from COVID-19. The Agency continues to assess the situation, make adjustments to consultation activities, and is providing flexibility as needed in order to prioritize the health and safety of all Canadians, while fulfilling its responsibility to conduct meaningful engagement with interested groups.

Comments can be submitted online by visiting the [project home page](#) on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number [80063](#)). Comments received will be published online as part of the project file. Information on alternative means of submitting comments is also available on the Registry.

As next steps, the Agency will consider comments received in finalizing the recommended changes to the legally-binding conditions for the project. If the Minister agrees with these changes, an amended Decision Statement will be issued to the proponent. The Minister does not have the authority to amend the decision included in the Decision Statement and therefore, approval of the project cannot be withdrawn.

For more information on the project and the post-decision phase, visit the Agency's website at canada.ca/iaac.

Associated Links

- [Kemess Underground Project \(Impact Assessment Agency of Canada\)](#)
- [Impact Assessment Process Step 5 – Post Decision \(Impact Assessment Agency of Canada\)](#)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REDUCING EMISSIONS IN CALGARY BY EXPANDING THE WILLOW PLANTATION

As Canada begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government's top priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of all Canadians. That includes working to help the economy recover, creating new green jobs, reducing emissions, and making life more affordable for Canadians.

Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, announced approximately \$2 million from the Low Carbon Economy Fund to support the City of Calgary's biomass production and carbon sequestration project. This initiative will reduce emissions by planting 300 new hectares of trees over three years at the City's successful willow plantation.

Over the lifetime of this project, the City of Calgary will see a cumulative reduction of about 200,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions—equivalent to removing approximately 61,000 cars off the road for one year.

The plantation will use municipal biosolids as fertilizer and will help create a carbon-storage sink that leads to fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

This funding comes from the Champions stream of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Challenge, which invests in projects that reduce carbon pollution, save money, and create good jobs.

Canada's climate plan is on track to deliver the largest emissions reduction in the country's history. These initiatives are just the beginning. The Government of Canada will continue to bring forward new and enhanced climate action measures to exceed our 2030 target and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Quick facts

- The willow plantation project utilizes municipal biosolids to fertilize and improve marginal agricultural soils, sequester carbon as soil organic matter, and produce woody biomass.
- Using fertilizer from a municipal wastewater treatment plant provides an alternative to traditional chemical-based fertilizers.
- The Champion stream of the Low Carbon Economy Fund is an important part of Canada's climate action plan, helping put Canada on a path to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement target for 2030.
- The Low Carbon Economy Fund is supporting energy-efficiency projects in provinces and territories across Canada, which will help Canadians and businesses save money by lowering energy bills. Additionally, support is available to industries to put in place clean technologies that will help them be more efficient and innovative, creating jobs and savings across Canada.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Virtual Regulatory Forum

9:00 am - 4:00 pm
September 16th, 2020

ESAA is pleased to announce that the draft agenda for the upcoming ESAA Regulatory Forum is now available. Full details can be found at: <https://www.esaa.org/events/#id=209&wid=401&cid=153>.

The full-day forum includes 9 presentations from the following organizations: Alberta Energy Regulator, Orphan Well Association, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Indian Resource Council, McLennan Ross LLP, Nova Scotia Environment, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

Registration rates:

- **Member: \$49**
- **Non-Member: \$79**
- **Registration Link: [Click Here](#)**



Virtual Emerging Contaminants Forum

8:30 am - 4:15 pm
September 23rd, 2020

ESAA is pleased to announce that the draft agenda for the upcoming ESAA Emerging Contaminant Forum is now available. Full details can be found at: <https://www.esaa.org/events/#id=210&cid=153&wid=401>

The full-day forum includes 13 presentations from the following organizations: AGAT Laboratories, Bureau Veritas Laboratories, CARO Analytical, Environment and Climate Change Canada, InnoTech Alberta, IVEY International, Shell Canada, SLR Consulting, TRS Group and Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

Registration rates:

- **Member: \$49**
- **Non-Member: \$79**
- **Registration Link: [Click Here](#)**

ESAA WEBINAR SERIES RETURNS

The ESAA Webinar series is returning. Our free webinars will begin mid-September and run through mid-November. ESAA has listened to your feedback and we will continue to offer the webinars at no-charge.

If you have suggestions for a presentation, contact Joe at the ESAA Office.

If you are interested in becoming the title sponsor for the entire fall webinar series, visit → [details](#)

Indigenous Relations & COVID-19: Adapting Protocol during a Pandemic ***1 pm - 3pm*** ***September 30th, 2020***

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to become more considerate towards protecting the health of the communities we work with. Within Indigenous Relations, so many of the traditional protocols and ceremonies are affected by social distances that First Nations and the Industry alike have had to work at adapting processes to make the engagement possible and meaningful at the same time.

Join our panel to discuss how to maintain protocol and elevate respect and relationship, without compromising the health of the community or the integrity of the needed outcomes. The traditional test of marrying traditional knowledge with science finds new challenges amid circumstances such as COVID-19. This discussion aims at finding new, innovative ways to approach engagement and protocol through adaptability and collaboration.

Moderator:

- Jorge Avilés, Manager Stakeholder & Community Relations, Canada West Land

Panelists

- Lisa Johnson, Archaeologist, H3M Environmental
- Scott Millar, Principal, Collaboration Dynamics
- Holly Fortier, Nisto Consulting

Registration is Free. [Register Now](#)

Sponsored by:



Virtual RemTech 2020

October 14 & 15, 2020

Draft Program Now Available

Early Bird Registration Rates End August 28th

ESAA is pleased to announce that the draft program for RemTech 2020 is now available. You can view the program at: <https://www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/>. The program features 63 presentations spread over two days. Please take a moment to check out the agenda.



Virtual *RemTech* Registration Fees

ESAA has intentionally kept the registration fees low and are asking everyone to register, and to spread the word about the event and presentations. Approximately 90% of ESAA's revenues come from events, and now more than ever your Association needs your support!

	Early Bird Rate (until August 28th)	Regular Rate (after August 28th)	
Member	\$69 + GST	\$99 + GST	Register Now
Non-Member	\$89 + GST	\$119 + GST	Register Now

Sponsorship

There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities remaining, including: General Event Sponsor, Closing Keynote, Technical Sessions. For pricing or to sign up visit, <https://www.esaa.org/events/#id=208&cid=153&wid=401>. Sponsorships are first come-first served. For additional information contact Lorraine Hamdon - [lorrine @tl2.ca](mailto:lorrine@tl2.ca)

Existing Hotel Reservations and Special Offer

- **Existing Reservations** – If you have made a reservation at the Fairmont Banff Springs, you will need to contact the hotel and cancel your reservation. There are no cancellation fees.
- **Special Offer** – The Fairmont Banff Springs is kindly keeping open the RemTech room block for personal travel. If you are interested in visiting Banff during the dates of October 12-18th, 2020 you can still take advantage of the great room rates starting at \$260 + taxes.

We look forward to your support of *RemTech* and ESAA.

CE3C 2020 Virtual Conference: Canadian Environmental & Engineering Executives Conference

October 1, 2020 | 8:15 am - 12:45 pm PST

As a leader in the Canadian environment and engineering community, you are invited to join the CE3C 2020 cohort this Fall. Past attendees recognize the value of this event and it is hoped you will take advantage of special rates offered below. If you are considering attending for the first time, here are some [images from last year](#) as well as the [2019 attendee list](#) to help persuade you.

This year's virtual event will take place on October 1st, 2020 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. PDT and the program will include:

- Keynote address by renowned pollster Nik Nanos who will share insights on COVID-19 impacts to Canadians from a social, economic and political perspective.
- CE3C Executive Survey Results and Benchmarking presentation – New 2020 data!
- Executive panel discussion on COVID-19 impacts on their Consulting and Engineering operations.
- Expert panel discussion on Mergers & Acquisitions – who's doing what, and why.
- Real-time online polling and Q&A among participants.

For those who register for CE3C 2021 (in-person, Vancouver – Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2021), complimentary access will be provided to this year's virtual CE3C event and various virtual networking events leading up to 2021. This offer is based on the Early Bird rate of \$1700 + taxes. If you choose to only attend the 2020 virtual event you can [register now](#) for \$299 + taxes. For more information, please email info@ce3c.ca or phone Todd Latham at 416-722-8109.

Industry Positions Openings



As a benefit of ESAA Membership, ESAA Members can now post position openings on our website at no charge. Position opening ads also will appear in the newsletter at no charge. For full details visit: <https://www.esaa.org/news/job-board/>

Note: You must still complete the advertising form. After completing the order form, you will receive an email with a link to post your position.

Non-Members are welcome to advertise as well for a nominal charge. Visit [advertising form](#) to place your order.

Job Title	Organization	Application Deadline	Term	Details
Environmental Enforcement Officer	Environment and Climate Change Canada	2021-01-30	Full-Time	more
Intermediate Environmental Consultant	Ridgeline Canada Inc.	2020-08-31	Full-Time	more

