



OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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September 12, 2007  
File No: 0540-20-01

Mayor Sharon Shepherd & Council  
City of Kelowna  
1435 Water Street  
Kelowna, BC  
V1Y 1J4

Mayor Graham Reid & Council  
District of Peachland  
5806 Beach Avenue  
Peachland, BC  
V0H 1X7

Mayor James Baker & Council  
District of Lake Country  
10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road  
Lake Country, BC  
V4V 2M1

Dear Mayor & Council:

Re: Vehicle Engine "Anti-idling" Signage

At its last meeting on August 29, 2007, the Regional Air Quality Committee discussed the option of using "anti-idling" signage to encourage a reduction in unnecessary vehicle engine-idling in typical idling "hot spots" such as near schools, hospitals, major institutions, tour bus stops and residential/commercial interfaces. School District No. 23 has posted signs at many schools encouraging drivers to turn their vehicles off while waiting to pick up children. As another example, "anti-idling" signage could be used to encourage tour bus operators across from Kelowna City Hall to turn off their engines when parked, since there have been numerous complaints regarding tour buses idling in that location.

Idling for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, wastes money and causes damage to the environment. We've all experienced the harmful effects of idling, whether we're walking past a row of trucks or buses on a busy city street, holding our breath trying to avoid inhaling the toxic exhaust fumes, or right in our own neighbourhood, where remote car starters turn on vehicles while the owners are still at the breakfast table.

Vehicle idling is a habit that is costing Canadians millions of dollars a year in wasted fuel and producing unnecessary emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a greenhouse gas that is a major contributor to climate change. To make matters worse, vehicle idling also contributes to other environmental problems such as deteriorating air quality and smog, which directly affect the health of our children and other vulnerable members of our community, including seniors and people with respiratory problems.

Currently all municipal fleets, Regional Transit Buses and School District No. 23 buses within the Central Okanagan have anti-idling policies in place.

The Regional Air Quality Committee recommends that member municipal Councils support the "Idle Free Zone Turn Engine Off" signage to voluntarily encourage vehicle operators to turn off their engines when parked to ensure clean and healthy air is maintained in those areas.

Below are some examples of signs which could be used.



The Regional Air Quality Committee thanks you and your Council for considering this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Knowles".

Director David Knowles  
Chair, Regional Air Quality Committee