



# **YOUR REGIONAL AIRSHED** BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



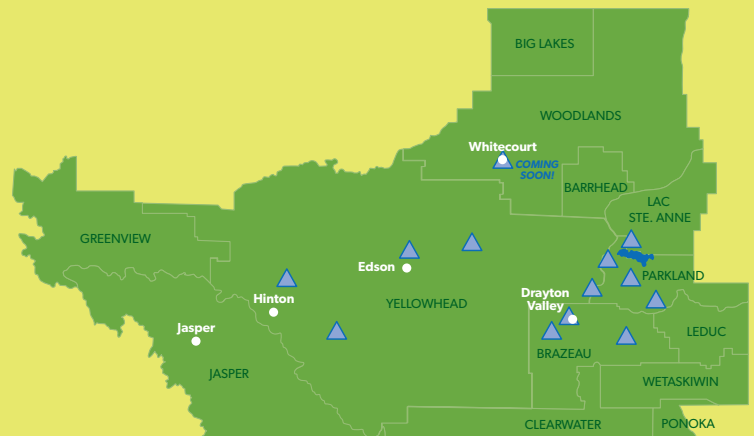
# PROVIDING TRUSTED DATA SINCE 1995.

West Central Airshed Society (WCAS)  
is your regional Airshed from the  
BC Border to the Wabamun Lake Area.

WCAS provides:

- Science-based and data-driven air quality expertise
- Impartial and credible voice for monitoring, reporting and education about outdoor air quality
- Effective response to community inquiries and support of citizen involvement

There are currently 12 continuous monitoring stations in WCAS with plans for an additional station in Whitecourt. WCAS also operates mobile monitoring stations and micro-sensor monitoring sites in the region.



# WHAT IS WCAS?

We are a member-driven, multi-stakeholder organization responsible for the collection and reporting of ambient air quality data within West Central Alberta.

- WCAS is one of Alberta's ten Airsheds, who collectively manage Alberta's Ambient Air Network of over 85 continuous stations, several portable stations, and hundreds of smaller monitoring sites.
- Driven by science, WCAS meets or exceeds provincial, national and international standards of air monitoring.
- As a not-for-profit organization, WCAS makes best use of available resources.
- As a neutral organization, WCAS is fully transparent and as a result, our data is able to be trusted by all stakeholders.
- Our funding comes largely from our own members, with additional support through grants and other fundraising.
- We provide outreach and educational initiatives to increase air quality awareness and understanding.
- WCAS is vital to Alberta's air quality management system.

# WORKING WITH OUR MEMBERS

Our primary responsibility is to monitor, analyze and report on air quality in West Central Alberta. We also play important roles supporting our members and engaging with communities to increase their understanding of air quality.

WCAS members are encouraged to get involved with their Airshed. Each year, Board positions are elected at the Annual General Meeting. WCAS also invites members and experts to participate on committees, including the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.



# INDUSTRY MEMBERS

While membership in Airsheds is a regulatory requirement for larger emitters, many other industries choose to participate so that they can access invaluable air quality expertise and resources, and to show their commitment to the community's well-being.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Fulfil regulatory obligations for air quality monitoring and reporting
- Receive frequent detailed air quality reports – monthly and annual summaries, exceedance notifications, analyses, and investigations, with additional information available as needed
- Liaise with other stakeholders from government, municipalities, communities, academia, and other industry sectors
- Gain a greater understanding of air quality trends, emerging technology, and opportunities for collaboration
- Participate and support WCAS' educational outreach programs in schools and communities

## Benefits of WCAS Monitoring

While it is possible for larger emitters to monitor and report on air quality themselves, there are several benefits to participating in WCAS monitoring.

- Public trust as the data is collected and reported by an impartial, not-for-profit Airshed
- Financial efficiencies are realized through an economy of scale
- As most exceedances to Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives are a result of area-wide or background sources, exceedance notifications are reported by, and ascribed to, WCAS as whole

Expertise and experience of Airsheds is unparalleled. WCAS has been in operation for more than 25 years and is part of the Alberta Airsheds Council alongside Alberta's other nine Airsheds. Together, the Airsheds operate Alberta's network of over 85 ambient air stations, numerous portable stations, and hundreds of smaller sites.

# MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

Our urban and rural municipalities are valued partners and participate as WCAS members voluntarily.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Support for effective public engagement on air quality and odour issues
- Cost effective solutions for meeting environmental responsibilities
- Access to air quality expertise, especially important for municipalities with limited resources
- Consistent messaging to all residents in the region regarding air quality
- An important connection between air quality and land use planning
- Forum to work with other stakeholders and neighbouring municipalities on air quality issues
- Another connection with regulatory and legislative bodies



# GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta Environment & Parks and representatives from other Departments participate in WCAS. Funding for WCAS from the Government of Alberta comes in the form of grants that help cover core operations and community outreach initiatives.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Demonstrated record of cost effectiveness
- Attraction of volunteers and significant in-kind contributions
- Ability to leverage government contributions with contributions from other sources

# COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS

Local organizations involved in air quality management, monitoring or education as well as individual members of the public are encouraged to become members at a nominal cost.

Local knowledge and opinions are invaluable to WCAS.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Forum to actively participate in discussions between other sectors
- Opportunity to provide a voice for local interests
- Equal sharing of information and views through a consensus decision-making process which creates a level playing field for all sectors
- Engage in research and pilot projects with other members and post-secondary institutions



WCAAS  
West Central Air Quality Society

Monitoring Station  
The air is.





## **BECOME A WCAS MEMBER**

Are you interested in learning more about air quality within your community? Join WCAS as a member.

### **Contact Us**

wcas.ca // info@wcas.ca // 587-499-4900

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