

# WCAS

West Central Airshed Society

## YOUR REGIONAL AIRSHED

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



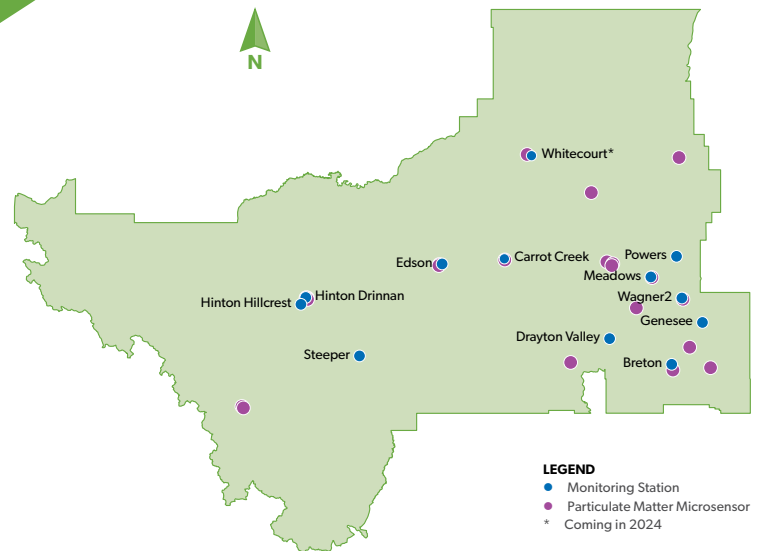
# PROVIDING TRUSTED DATA SINCE 1995.

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

WCAS provides:

- Air quality information, including the Air Quality Health index (AQHI) and wildfire resources
- 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
- Networking opportunities with like-minded organizations and individuals

WCAS operates continuous monitoring stations and particulate matter microsensors across the Airshed region.



# WHO 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 93 continuous stations, several portable stations, and hundreds of smaller monitoring sites.
- driven by science and meets (or exceeds) provincial and national standards of air monitoring.
- a not-for-profit organization that monitors, collects, and shares air quality information and data.
- a neutral organization that is fully transparent, resulting in data that is trusted by all stakeholders.
- funded by contributions from major emitters operating in the Airshed, other membership fees, and grants from the Government of Alberta.
- instrumental in providing outreach and education to increase air quality awareness and support multistakeholder dialogue to address local issues.
- vital to Alberta's air quality management system.

# WORKING WITH OUR MEMBERS

Our membership consists of industry, municipal, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders. 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 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.



# INDUSTRY MEMBERS

While membership in Airsheds is a regulatory requirement for larger emitters, many industries choose to participate so they can access invaluable air quality expertise and resources, and show their commitment to community well-being. Industry members pay membership fees based on their annual emissions according to Alberta's "Emitters' Pay" principle.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Fulfil regulatory obligations for air quality monitoring and reporting
- Access to detailed air monitoring data reported by WCAS using customized, interactive technology
- Liaise with other stakeholders from government, municipalities, communities, academia, and other industry sectors
- Gain insights into air quality trends, emerging technology, and opportunities for collaboration
- Participation and support for outreach activities and community/school events

## Benefits of WCAS Monitoring

There are several benefits to participating in WCAS monitoring.

- Public trust of monitoring locations and data due to transparent, multi-stakeholder oversight
- Shared expertise and resources form Alberta's Airshed community
- Financial savings from not-for-profit approach and economies 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 a 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.

WCAS welcomes industry members who recognize the benefit of the Alberta Airshed Model.

# MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

Our urban and rural municipalities are valued partners and participate as WCAS members voluntarily. By working closely with communities, WCAS can play an integral role in addressing local air quality concerns.

## 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, important for municipalities with limited resources
- Consistent messaging and support for residents in the region regarding air quality, including AQHI
- An important connection between air quality and land use planning
- Forum to work with other stakeholders and neighbouring municipalities on air quality issues
- Connection with regulatory and legislative bodies
- Monthly and annual reports that provide highlights and analyses of air quality monitoring



# GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas and representatives from other Departments participate in and support 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 Partnership

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

# NGO & PUBLIC 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 low cost.

Local knowledge and opinions are invaluable to WCAS.

## Benefits of WCAS Membership

- Forum to actively participate in discussions between other sectors
- Opportunity to express individual views and community 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

WCAS  
West Central Airshed Society

HINTON HILLCREST  
AIRMONT DRIVING ST

# Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)



wcas.ca @WestCentralAirshedSociety



## **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](http://wcas.ca) // [info@wcas.ca](mailto:info@wcas.ca) // 587-499-4900

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