



# 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge: Chilliwack

“Empowering Communities, Saving Lives”





Take Action on Radon is proud to unite members from across Canada, which encompasses the traditional territory of many First Nations, Métis Peoples, and Inuit whose ancestral footsteps and rights extend beyond the colonial boundaries that exist today. We respectfully honour these Peoples' rights, history, and relationships with this Land.



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society





## Project Overview:

The *100 Radon Test Kit Challenge* program provides 100 long-term radon test kits (or more), free of charge, to communities, to distribute to their citizens.

“Turn-key program” provides tools and resources for each step of the process.

No cost to participating communities: requires only staff time for organizing, distributing, and collecting test kits.

*Take Action on Radon wants to thank Kira, Tara and their team for all their help and support in running the project.*



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society



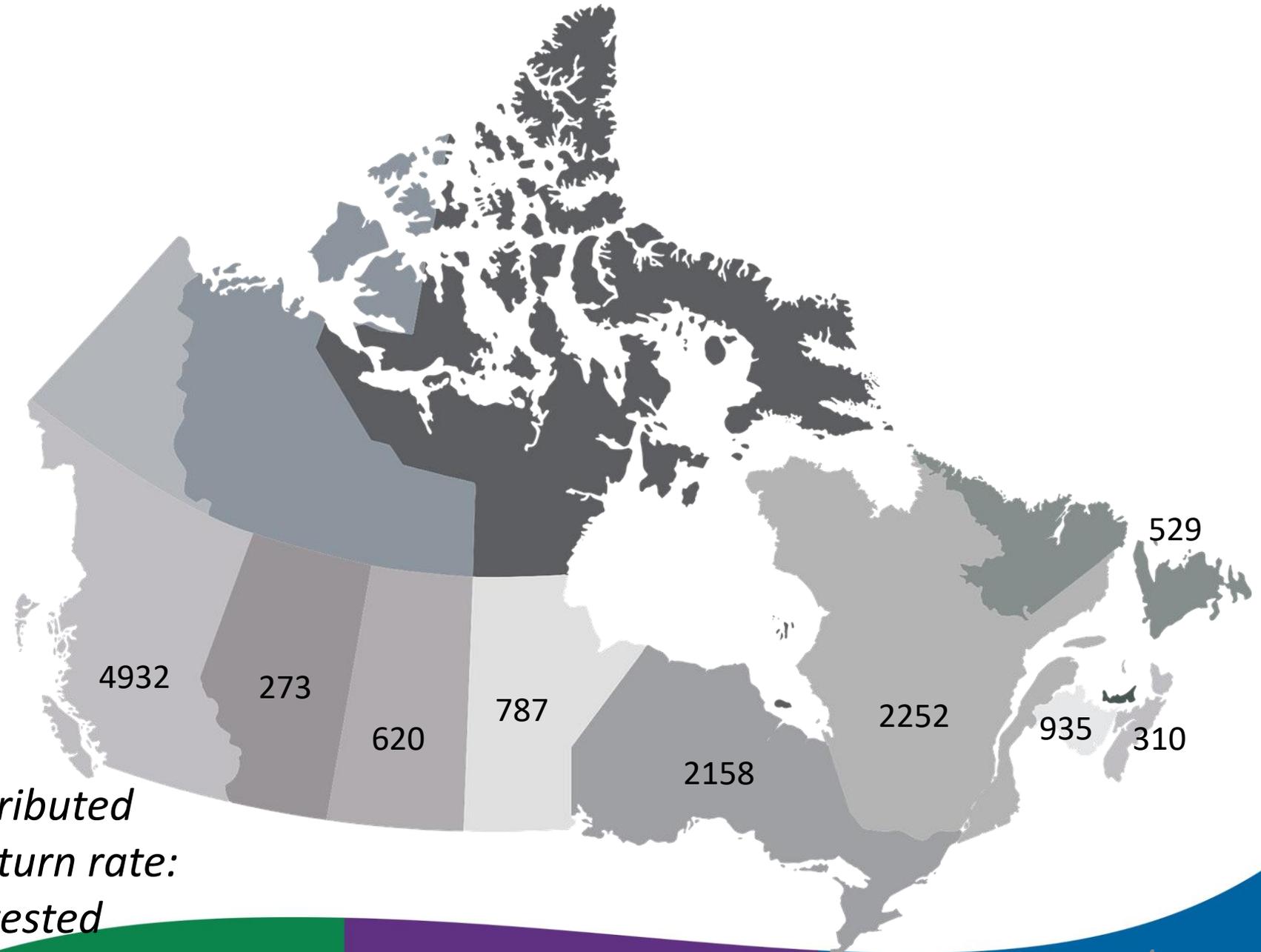
## Impact to date

*Over 120 Communities*

*-9 Provinces*

*-5 First Nations*

*-2 Métis groups*



*Over 14 000 detectors distributed  
with an average of 74% return rate:  
more than 10 000 homes tested*



**2018-19**

**(9)**

Moncton, NB  
 Salmon Arm, BC  
 Winnipeg, MB  
 Spruce Grove, AB  
 Golden, BC  
 Souris, MB  
 Port Colborne, ON  
 Baden, ON  
 Wabana, NL

**2019 – 2020**

**(15)**

Halifax, NS  
 Sherbrooke, QC  
 Brandon, MB  
 Dauphin, MB  
 Greater Madawaska  
 Region, ON  
 Summerland, BC  
 Valemount, BC  
 Coquitlam, BC  
 Abbotsford, BC  
 McBride, BC  
 Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC  
 Pembroke, ON  
 Harrison Park, MB  
 North Grenville, ON

**2020 – 2021**  
**(20)**

Sicamous, BC  
 Peachland, BC  
 West Bank First Nation, BC  
 West Kelowna, BC  
 Kelowna, BC  
 Vernon, BC  
 Sundre, AB  
 Black Diamond, AB  
 Eston, SK  
 Silver Harbour, MB  
 Lakeshore, MB  
 Chatham-Kent, ON  
 Leeds & Thousand Islands, ON  
 Carleton-sur-mer, QC  
 Saint-Joseph du-Lac, QC  
 Lorraine, QC  
 Candiac, QC  
 Madawaska, NB  
 Mount Pearl, NL  
 Stephenville, NL

**2021 – 2022 (30)**

Barriere, BC  
 Peachland, BC  
 West Bank First Nation, BC  
 West Kelowna, BC  
 Kelowna, BC  
 Vavenby, BC  
 Clearwater, BC  
 Blue River, BC  
 Grand Forks, BC  
 Revelstoke, BC  
 Eatonia, SK  
 Weyburn, SK  
 Clarence-Rockland, ON  
 Ottawa, ON  
 Waterloo, ON  
 Mallorytown, ON  
 Candiac, QC  
 Percé, QC  
 Deux-Montagnes, QC  
 Saint-Augustin-des-  
 Desmaures, QC  
 Grand Falls, NB  
 Gander, NL  
 Harbour Breton, NL  
 Fogo Island, NL  
 7 Nations Communities, NB  
 Treaty 3 Communities, ON

**2022 – 2023 (25)**

Kimberley, BC  
 Kelowna, BC  
 West Kelowna, BC  
 Lake Country, BC  
 Peachland, BC  
 West Bank First Nation, BC  
 Salt Spring Island, BC  
**Chilliwack, BC**  
**Mission, BC**  
**Cultus Lake, BC**  
**Hope, BC**  
**Harrison and Kent, BC**  
 Estevan, SK  
 Whitecap Dakota First  
 Nation, SK  
 Edenwold, SK  
 East St. Paul, MB  
 RM of Hanover, MB  
 Cavan Monaghan, ON  
 Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC  
 Prévost, QC  
 Cantley, QC  
 Gaspé, QC  
 Beloeil, QC  
 Woodstock First Nation, NB  
 Riverview, NB

**100 Test Kit Challenge communities, by year**

## Radon Basics – Health Effects

Radon is the leading cause of Lung Cancer in non-smokers.

Radon greatly increases smoker's risk of getting lung cancer.

Health Canada estimates over **3,000** Canadians per year die of radon-related lung cancer.



From Health Canada's Radon Gas: It's in your home.

[https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/ewh-semt/alt\\_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/radiation/radon\\_brochure/radon\\_brochure-eng.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/radiation/radon_brochure/radon_brochure-eng.pdf)

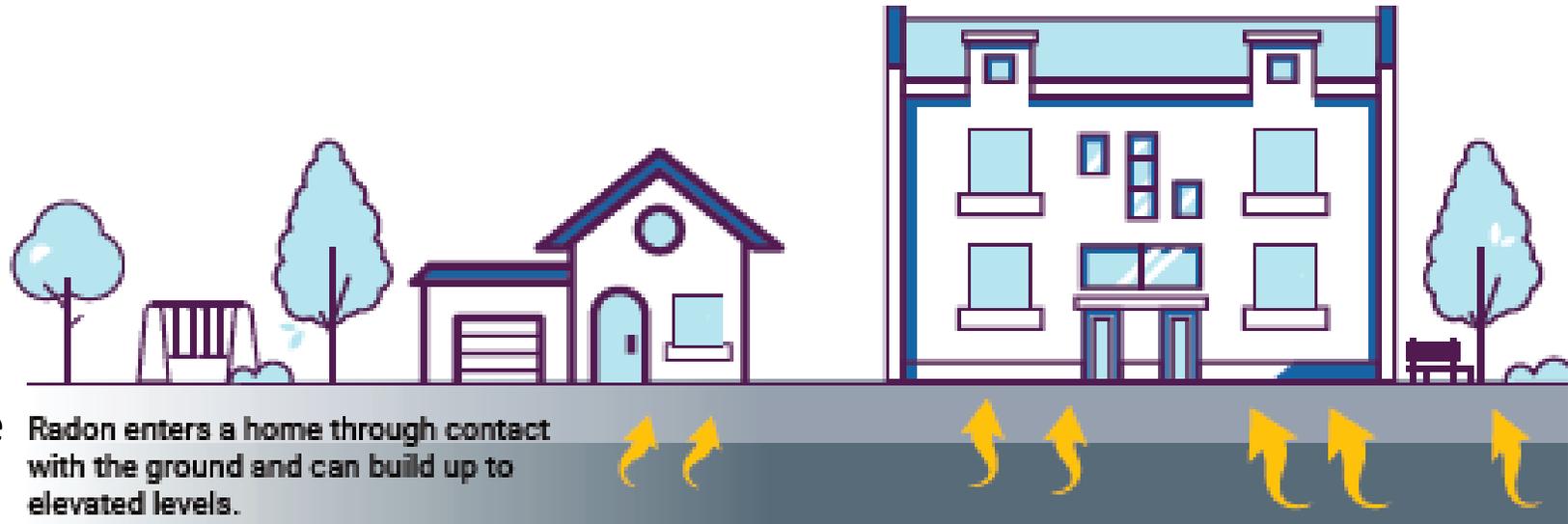
## Radon Basics - Source

Radon is a radioactive gas which comes from the soil.

Enters all buildings which have contact with the ground and can move throughout the building, including upper levels.

Typically highest levels are found in the basement or first floor.

**Health Canada recommends all buildings be tested using a 3-month test during the heating season and any homes found with levels above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> be reduced.**





REPORT NUMBER  
5785228:1

REPORT DATE  
2021-02-12

REPORT PAGE  
1 of 5

PRINT DATE  
2021-03-05

OWN ID  
N/A

BY  
Take Action on Radon

REPORT RECEIVER(S)  
Erin Curry

Erin Curry  
4 Donald McClintock Bay  
Manitoba MB R2G 3N3  
CANADA

## RADON MONITORING REPORT

### Description of the measurement

The measurement was performed with a closed alpha-track detector (Radtrak<sup>®</sup>) following the quality guidance in CNRPP-AL-DF-v6.

The detector(s) arrived to Radonova Laboratories AB **2021-02-04**. They were measured **2021-02-10**.

*No person has signed the record card and verified that the instructions have been followed.*

### Property data and address

MEASURE SITE ADDRESS

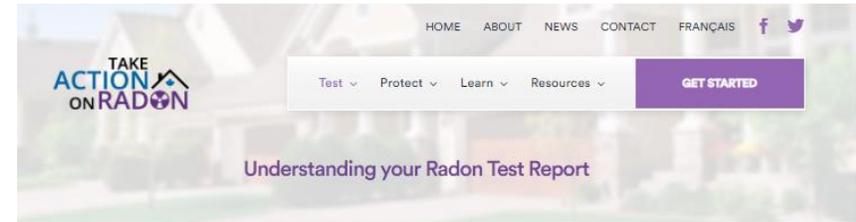
BUILDING ID

### Test results

DETECTOR	MEASUREMENT PERIOD	DESCRIPTION / LOCATION	ROOM TYPE	FLOOR	RADON RESULT
923256-2	2020-10-22 – 2021-01-21	C-NRPP Test			87 ± 22 Bq/m <sup>3</sup>

## Community Participant Stats

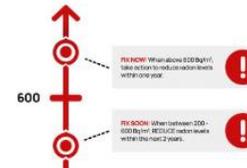
Detectors distributed	Reports Issued	Return Rate
400	260	65%



The Canadian guideline for radon in indoor air is 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.

If you've tested your home, and the radon concentration is above the Canadian guideline of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, Health Canada recommends that you take action to lower the concentrations.

The higher the radon concentrations, the sooner action should be taken to reduce levels to as low as practically possible.



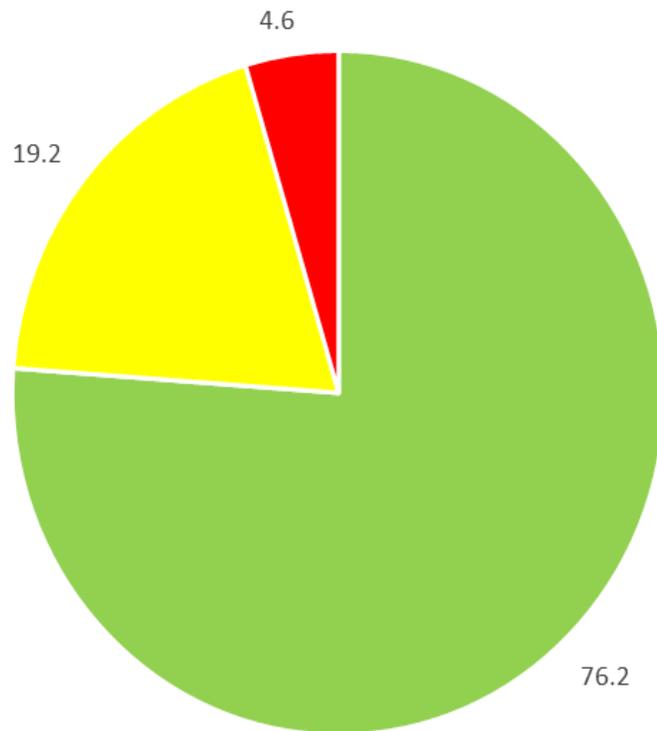
Health Canada recommends that homeowners consult with a Radon Mitigation Professional certified by the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) to determine the best radon reduction method. While the health risk from radon exposure below the Canadian guideline is small, there is no level that is considered risk free. It is the choice of each homeowner to decide what level of radon exposure they are willing to accept.

Health Canada recommends that homeowners consult with a Radon Mitigation Professional certified by the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) to determine the best radon reduction method. While the health risk from radon exposure below the Canadian guideline is small, there is no level that is considered risk free. It is the choice of each homeowner to decide what level of radon exposure they are willing to accept.

<https://takeactiononradon.ca/test/understanding-your-radon-test-report/>

By now, each participant who completed the process, should have received an individual confidential report.

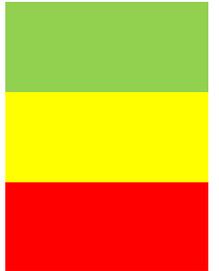
Results for Chilliwack



5 % tested over 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

260 Households Completed the testing

Count	Percent	Range
198	76.2%	Under 100
50	19.2%	Between 100 and 200
12	4.6%	Between 200 and 600
0	0.0%	Between 600 and 1000
0	0.0%	Above 1000
<b>260</b>		<b>Total</b>

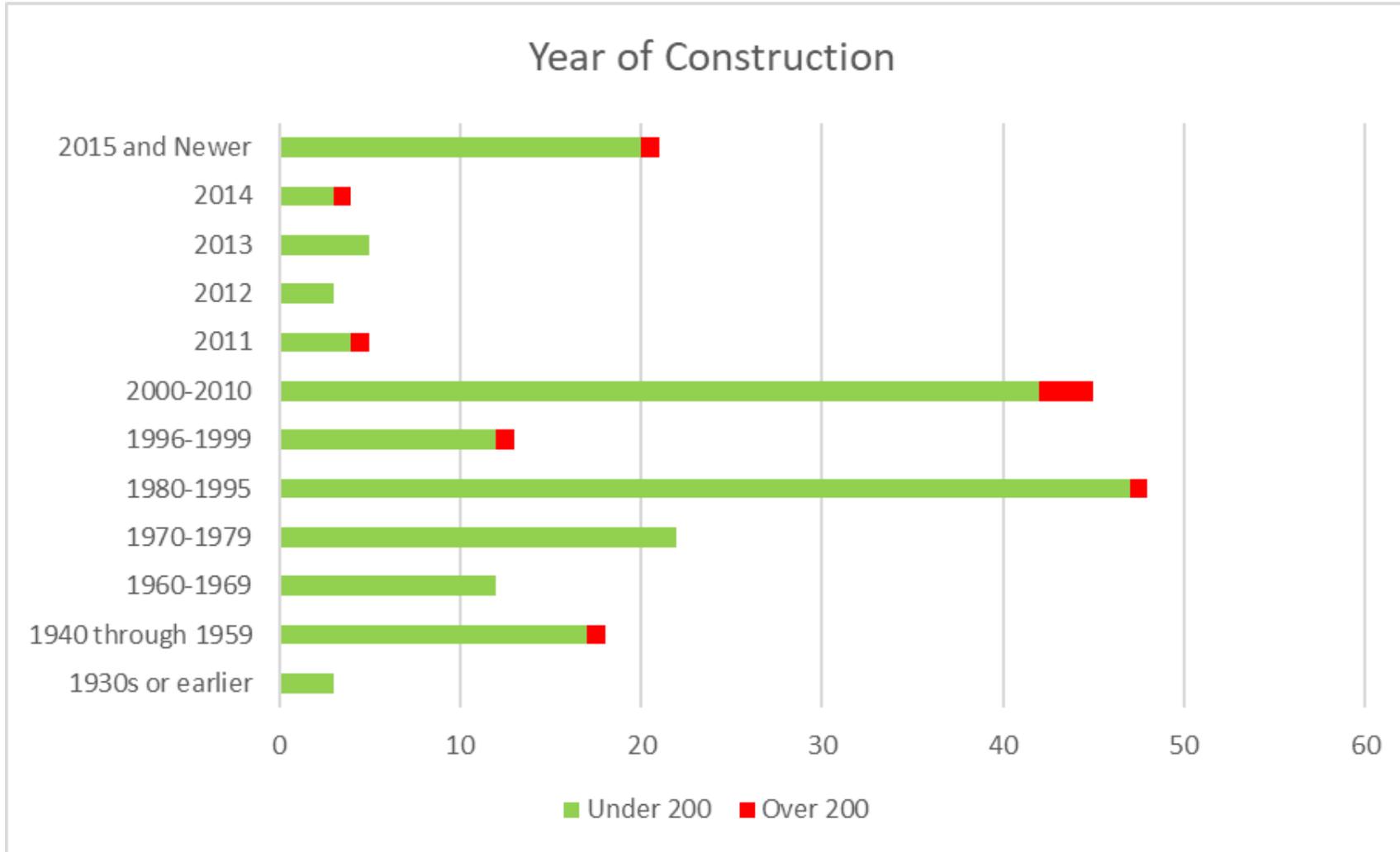


## Type of Dwelling

	Below 200	Above 200	Total
Single Detached Home	167	8	175
Semi-attached (townhouse, duplex, shared wall)	20	2	22
Mobile home (on the ground or on a foundation or with well-sealed skirting)	3	0	3
Condo/apartment on second floor or above	5	0	5
Condo/apartment on ground floor or basement	4	0	4
			209

## Intention to Mitigate if Required

	<b>Below 200</b>	<b>Above 200</b>	<b>Total</b>
I am very likely to take action to reduce my radon level.	73	3	76
I am quite likely to take action to reduce my radon level.	82	1	83
I am undecided.	55	2	57
I am unlikely to take action to reduce my radon level.	3	2	5
			221





# TAKE ACTION ON RADON

## CHILLIWACK, BC

### 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge



### 260 HOMES

participated by testing for radon gas during the winter of 2022 using 91-day alpha track tests. This represents approximately 1% of the community dwellings.

**5%** of homes tested above Health Canada's guideline of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>



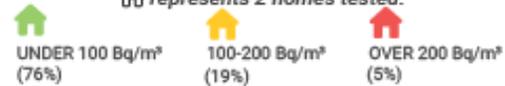
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground.



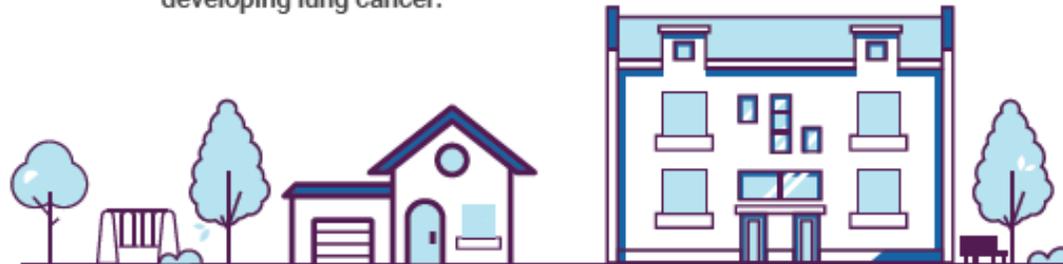
Exposure to elevated levels of radon is linked to increased chances of developing lung cancer.



represents 2 homes tested.

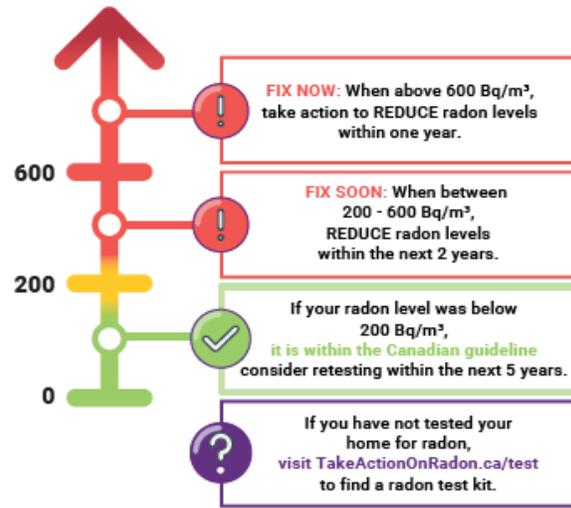


Levels can vary between neighbouring houses. The only way to know your radon level is to test.



Radon enters a home through contact with the ground and can build up to elevated levels.

# Community Report

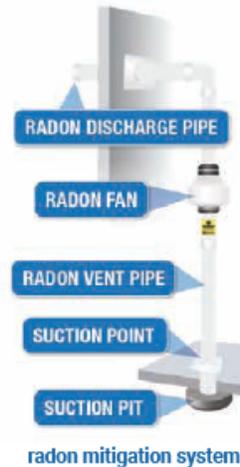


The BC Building Code requirements for radon vary by year and region. Some homes have a radon stub pipe or an extended pipe that runs through the house. These features are the beginning of a radon mitigation system and can make installation easier.

**Long-term (91 day) radon testing is still necessary to determine if additional mitigation steps are required to reduce the radon levels in a new home.**

Since radon levels fluctuate over time, testing with a long-term test (of at least 91 days) provides a better estimate of your annual radon exposure. Many digital detectors are available to purchase or to borrow for shorter test durations, but we still recommend testing for at least 91 days. If you borrow a digital monitor for a shorter test, consider following up with a long-term test.

A **radon mitigation system** is installed with a fan that draws air (and radon) up from beneath the foundation and discharges the radon to the outdoors where it disperses the radon to low levels. This system reduces radon levels by preventing radon from entering your home.



Radon gas levels are reduced the most by installing a **radon mitigation system**. Research shows that **certified radon professionals** can reduce levels by over 90%. Other steps, such as increasing ventilation and sealing cracks, can help in the short-term but are less effective.



**HOW TO FIND A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL**

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/](http://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/)

Certified radon mitigation professionals are trained to properly assess your home, and design systems to efficiently and effectively reduce your radon level.

### Missed your chance to test?

Check out Take Action on Radon's website for more information on how to access a long-term (91-day) test kit in your region and how to properly test your home.

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test](http://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test)



### Already tested and want to help?

If you are willing to share your data to help us better understand radon in your community, submit your information to our online radon depository.

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share](http://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share)

# C-NRPP Professionals

- Certified Mitigation Professionals course in both Measurement and Mitigation
- C-NRPP Mitigation Professionals are required to have insurance

List of professionals available at  
[www.c-nrpp.ca/find-a-professional/](http://www.c-nrpp.ca/find-a-professional/)



**C-NRPP**

CANADIAN – NATIONAL RADON PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

## FIND A PROFESSIONAL

C-NRPP Certified professionals are certified to work in every province and territory in Canada  
Please ask the Professional if you have questions about their service area.

**A C-NRPP Mitigation Professional will help you lower your radon levels.**

**To locate a radon professional in your area, please select a search method below and provide the necessary search terms.**

Search by postal code: Postal Code  Distance

Search by province: Province

Search for

## LUNGS MATTER

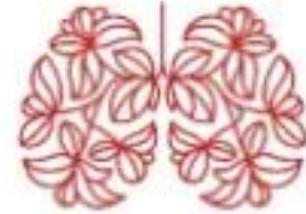
## Financial support for home radon mitigation

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in Canada...it can also be



# Lungs Matter

## Home Radon Mitigation Grant Program

BREATHE  
the lung association

In Partnership with



The Canadian Lung Association has recently launched a new grant program to help people across Canada afford radon mitigation services.

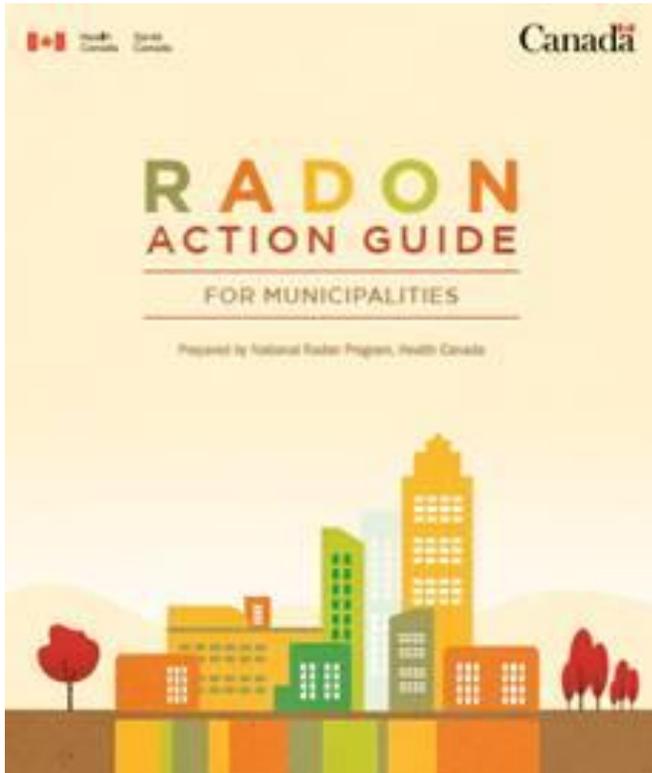
The Lungs Matter Grant Program aims to provide financial support to individuals who have been diagnosed with lung cancer and individuals considered a low-moderate income households with priority given to the low-income households.

<https://www.lung.ca/lungs-matter-radon-mitigation-support>



# Radon Action Guides - Health Canada

Health Canada's National Radon Program has developed Radon Action Guides designed to help provinces, territories, and municipalities across Canada develop programs and policies to address radon.



The Radon Action Guide for Municipalities describes:

- why municipalities should take action
- how to create radon action strategies
- important steps to take to reduce radon-induced lung cancer in communities

Municipalities can become leaders in advancing radon action through:

- policy development
- education and awareness
- creating databases and maps
- supporting community testing
- enforcing radon provisions in Building Codes

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/radon/action-guides/municipalities.html>

# CARST has developed a survey for BC Municipalities

## Objectives:

Gather insights about the perspectives of different municipalities in BC regarding radon.

### Aim 1:

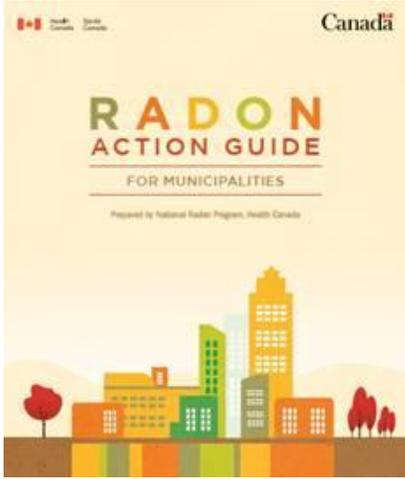
Evaluate radon awareness and action. (10 questions)

### Aim 2:

Educate municipalities about the risks of radon exposure. (20 questions)

### Aim 3:

Identify areas where CARST can provide support and assistance to municipalities. (3 questions)



We invite you to complete the survey online.



# Library Lending Programs in the Fraser Valley area



# BC Building Code Changes



The proposed changes to the **BC Building Code** radon provisions are now open for public review. You can find the details and process for public comments here-- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards/bc-codes/public-review>, including how to give feedback (surveys, forms, emails). **The deadline is June 16.**

- i** Proposed B.C. - specific code changes are available for comment from May 19, 2023 to June 16, 2023



*Thank you for your participation in this program!*

[www.takeactiononradon.ca](http://www.takeactiononradon.ca)

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