

Media Release – For Immediate Release

Radon Screening Kits Now Available through Parkland Regional

Lacombe (January 8, 2020) – Parkland Regional Library (PRL) has partnered with the Alberta Lung Association, and with support from Health Canada, we are proud to launch Radon Screening Kits as an addition to the other materials patrons can borrow.

Ronald Sheppard, Director of Parkland Regional Library System says “Radon gas is common throughout Canada and can pose a serious health threat in high concentrations. We are very pleased to partner with the Alberta Lung Association to provide these kits to our libraries so the public will have access to free radon screening.”

Radon is an invisible, odourless gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in the ground and can build up in homes undetected. Exposure to radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Recent research from the University of Calgary indicated that one in six homes in western Canada have high radon levels.

“Knowing your home’s radon level is the first step in determining if you and your family are at risk. We are proud to partner with Parkland Regional Library with support from Health Canada to provide residents in central Alberta with free radon screening kits. Don’t wait, test your home today!” says Leigh Allard, President & CEO, Alberta Lung Association

Health Canada encourages Canadians to test their homes for radon to minimize risks of lung cancer. Using the new screening kits available, patrons at any of PRL’s member libraries can gain awareness of radon levels in their home. The Health Canada Guideline recommends that Canadians take action to reduce the level of radon found in homes if the level is above 200 Bq/m³.

“Every home has radon. The important factor is knowing how much. The only way to know is to test,” notes Andrew Heshka, regional Radiation Specialist with Health Canada in Alberta.

“Screening your home with a kit now available through Parkland Regional Library is an easy, affordable first step in taking action on radon, and in protecting your family’s lung health in the long term.”

The screening kits are free and can be checked out at any of PRL’s member libraries. The kits are for initial screening only. Long-term radon testing, for 3 months, is required after the screening to get an accurate annual average radon level in a home. Each of the kits available explain the basics of radon, how to use the screening kit, and what to do after completing the screening test. The kits can be put on hold and checked out for a period of three weeks.



For more information:
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Anyone interested in borrowing a Radon Screening Kit can put one on hold or talk to staff in their local library.

About Parkland Regional Library

Parkland Regional Library is a cooperative network of 49 public libraries, serving 64 municipalities and over 215,000 residents in central Alberta. Headquartered in Lacombe, Parkland Regional Library supports its members by sharing material, resources, and expertise. For more information, please visit www.prl.ab.ca/.

About Health Canada

Health Canada is responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health. It ensures that high-quality health services are accessible, and works to reduce health risks. It is part of the Health portfolio of the Government of Canada. For more information, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>.

About Alberta Lung Association

Alberta Lung Association (ALA) is one of Alberta's oldest health charities, founded in 1939. Our reason for being can really be summed up in one word: **Breathe**. It's what unites us. It's what inspires us. And it's what keeps us pushing ahead— whether it's searching for cures to lung diseases, teaching kids about the dangers of tobacco, or fighting for clean air. The Lung Association is the leading organization in Canada working to promote lung health and prevent and manage lung disease. We do this by funding vital research, pushing for improved treatments, going to bat for smarter policies, and helping patients manage their health. ALA is a registered charity and proud to serve Albertans. Visit us to learn more www.ab.lung.ca