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# MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Dec. 3, 2013

## Want to know about air quality in Alberta? There's an app for that

(EDMONTON) – Accessing local air quality conditions through the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) has been made easier for Albertans with the launch of a new smartphone app – the Alberta AQHI.

Available for multiple mobile devices and platforms including iOS, Android and coming soon, BlackBerry, the Alberta AQHI app reports local air quality conditions and health messages in more than 20 communities across the province.

“The average person takes about 20,000 breaths a day which is about 10,000 litres of air passing through your lungs every twenty four hours,” said Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. James Talbot. “This app makes it easier for Albertans to learn what the air quality around them means for their health and helps them access information they can use to limit exposure to air pollution if the air quality is poor.”

The app was developed by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development as part of a larger public education and outreach program to inform Albertans about the AQHI and encourage them to use it in planning their daily outdoor activities.

As a program partner, The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT, is excited to share this valuable new tool with people most at risk to the negative impacts of air pollution and the general public.

“The app is a useful tool in terms of ease and accessibility for health care professionals, the public and the over 600,000 Albertans who suffer from lung disease,” said Amy Elefson, Environmental Program Specialist with The Lung Association, Alberta & NWT. “It is a great way to access immediate and forecast information on air quality across the province.”

The Alberta AQHI app is accessible through the [Government of Alberta App Store](#), through app stores on various mobile devices and by visiting [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca). A version for BlackBerry is currently in development and the public will be notified when it is complete.

For more information on the Air Quality Health Index in Alberta, visit [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca).

For Additional Information:

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 12, 2014

## **NEW! Alberta AQHI App now available for BlackBerry**

(EDMONTON) – In an effort to make local air quality conditions as easily accessible as possible to Albertans, a new BlackBerry version of the Alberta Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) app is now available.

Development of the app was undertaken by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development in partnership with the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association. With this new release, the Air Quality Health Index can now be accessed through mobile phone devices operating on iOS, Android and BlackBerry platforms. The app is also available to use on a variety of iOS and Android tablets.

The Alberta AQHI app reports local air quality conditions and health messages in more than 20 communities across the province. This new version of the app is available for BlackBerry mobile phones using 5, 6, 7 and 10 operating systems.

“Making the AQHI available on BlackBerry systems ensures wider accessibility to important health information related to air quality,” said Amy Elefson, Environmental Program Specialist with The Lung Association, Alberta & NWT. “Now even more Albertans can access immediate and forecast information on air quality by checking the app.”

The app was developed as part of a larger public education and outreach program to inform Albertans about the AQHI and encourage them to check the AQHI when planning their daily outdoor activities.

The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT, a partner in this education and outreach program, is excited to share the news about increased accessibility to air quality and health information for residents of Alberta – especially those who are more at risk to the negative impacts of air pollution.

“People with lung or heart disease, diabetes, the elderly and children are most at risk to the adverse health effects of poor air quality”, said Elefson. “By checking the AQHI and following the health messaging provided on poor air quality days, people can modify their outdoor activities and reduce the occurrence of negative health effects.”

All versions of the Alberta AQHI app are available through the [Government of Alberta App Store](#), through app stores on various mobile devices and by visiting [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca).

For more information on the Air Quality Health Index in Alberta, visit [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca).

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