

## OBSCR Revisions Threaten Our Air

### Sign Our Petition and Letter

We are contacting you to ask that you add your name to a petition and letter to the Provincial government officials concerned with air quality and slash burning. If you would like to add your name to such a correspondence, please go to: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/letter-to-province-of-bc-on-obscr-amendments>

As you may know, Smithers consistently rates near the bottom in meeting Provincial air quality standards. Clean Air Now (CAN) is a new organization in the Valley and we are dedicated to ensuring that our air quality problems are resolved once and for all. As we are sure you are aware, last fall we experienced some of the worst air quality problems due to slash burning that we have seen in recent years. The burning of slash is one of the major contributors to both air born toxins and the release of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Province. This is unacceptable considering that there are readily available alternatives to this practice.

The Provincial Government is now in the process of revising regulations that control slash burning. For burns occurring at distances of greater than 20 kms. from populated areas like Smithers, the draft of the new rules eliminates venting requirements related to weather conditions and burn duration rules. In short, the air quality problems we experienced last fall and in the past may actually get worse, not better under the revised rules.

On November 25, 2016, Smithers Town Council wrote Ms. Mary Polak, the Minister of the Environment in charge of the open burning rules to express the Town's concerns about the proposed revisions to the regulations: <http://bit.ly/2q8et2f>

We now plan to send a letter to the relevant Ministry officials supporting the Town's correspondence and asking that the rules be strengthened and not weakened with a goal of replacing industrial logging related slash burning with non-polluting practices.

If you would like to be put on our list of supporters and receive further updates about air quality issues in the Valley, then please also check the appropriate box below.

Together we can act to make sure that the air quality in the Bulkley Valley is as healthy as the Valley is beautiful.



CAN/Voices for Good Air