RADON AWARE
THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

T 604.731.5864
TF 1.800.665.5864
E radonaware@bc.lung.ca
W radonaware.ca

CL-2

February 17, 2016

District of Chetwynd
PO Box 357
Chetwynd, BC
V0C 1J0

Dear Mayor and Council

The BC Lung Association (BCLA) is one of the province's leading non-profit organizations providing research, education and program support to British Columbians on lung health issues. For many years BCLA has been encouraging British Columbians to test their homes for a serious public health risk known as radon gas – the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Included with this letter is **IMPORTANT** information clarifying recent changes to the 2012 BC Building Code for protection of soil gases, including radon. Please review the information and then please pass along to the appropriate department for their consideration.

It's important to note that some regions of British Columbia are known to be at a greater risk for elevated radon levels. BC's Office of Housing and Construction Standards, the ministry responsible for the BC Building Code, separates British Columbia into Area 1 (high radon risk potential) and Area 2 (low radon risk potential). This means homes, schools and workplaces in your community *potentially* have radon levels above the Health Canada safety guideline. The only way to know if any building has elevated radon levels, is to perform a simple and low cost test.

Thank you for your consideration. For further information on radon and how to test please visit www.radonaware.ca or contact Britt Swoveland, RadonAware Manager at 250.686.1597.

Regards,

B. Swoveland.

Britt Swoveland, RadonAware Program Manager

RADON AWARE
THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™
British Columbia

IMPORTANT: Recent BC Building Code Changes

Effective December 2014, the British Columbia Office of Housing and Construction Standards, Building and Safety Standards Branch, developed changes to the 2012 BC Building Code's (BCBC) measures for controlling soil gases. All new home construction in Area 1 of the Province (high radon potential) must include a roughed-in radon vent pipe.

What does this mean?

The BCBC requires that all new homes be provided with basic radon protection measures. This is achieved by an effective air barrier system and appropriate ventilation. Although these provisions provide some protection, they may not be a complete solution for homes with high radon potential. **The only way to know your indoor radon level is to test!** This test should be done once construction is complete and the home is occupied. Should test results determine an elevated risk of radon, the BC Lung Association and Health Canada recommend that the home owner take further measures to mitigate and reduce levels to as low as reasonably achievable.

The BCBC defines Area 1 of the Province which is known to have elevated radon concentrations. Homes in this area are to be provided with a rough-in of a radon vent pipe during initial construction. This rough-in affords the home owner a more cost-effective and easier option should they determine through post-construction testing that further mitigation is necessary.

Please note: The roughed-in radon vent pipe is NOT a radon mitigation system.

A typical and effective mitigation solution is to install a fan along the roughed-in radon vent pipe which then creates a subfloor depressurization mitigation system. The installation of a fan does not need to be done post-construction; the owner may include a fan as part of initial construction, and still be fully compliant with the BCBC. However, even when the building is initially constructed with a subfloor depressurization mitigation system, it is still recommended that the home be tested to ensure the indoor radon level is as low as reasonably achievable.

For more information on radon and to purchase a radon test kit please visit ***radonaware.ca***

British Columbia Lung Association | 2675 Oak Street Vancouver, BC V6H 2K2 | Toll-Free 1.800.665.5864