

# Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) – Flin Flon / Creighton Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

February 25, 2013 – HBMS Staffhouse  
Meeting #20

## Attendance

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership					
Don Aasen Town of Creighton	X	Bev Hill NorMan Regional Health	X	Deb Odegaard FF&D Env't Council	X
Bob Smith Creighton School Board		Tom Lindsey Steelworkers Union		Bill Pauley Flin Flon School Division	
Christa McIntyre Healthy Flin Flon	X	Charlene Logan General Public		Dave Price Green Project	X
Ian Cooper HBMS	X	Barb Lyons General Public	X	Bill Hanson City of Flin Flon	X
Cheryl Hordal General Public	X				

Guests / Other		
Sheldon McLeod (Facilitator) S.L. McLeod Consulting	Shirley Neault (recorder) HBMS	Celine Pinsent Goss Gilroy Inc.
Dr. James Irvine Churchill River Health Region (via telephone)	Dr. Lawrence Elliott NOR-MAN Health Region (via telephone)	Dr. Susan Roberecki MB Health (via telephone)
Dr. Randy Gesell Burntwood RHA (via telephone)	Adam Safruk Intrinsic Environmental (via telephone)	George Bihun SK Ministry of Environment (via telephone)
David Clarry Hudbay (via telephone)		

## Introduction

- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
- There were no action items for review from Meeting #19.

## Member's Commentary – Community Feedback

- Each CAC member was given the opportunity to share what they are hearing in the community regarding the Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure study ("Follow-up Evaluation of Lead Exposure in Children (under 7) in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan"). General comments included:
  - "That's still going on? The air quality is the best it has ever been."
  - No one is talking about this because no one is concerned.

## **Overview of Results of the Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure Study**

Reference Documentation: CAC Meeting\_FEB25\_v2

- Dr. Celine Pinsent from Goss Gilroy provided a presentation on the results of the 2012 Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure Study. Key notes from the presentation are provided below.
  - Study Questions:
    - (1) What is the current level of internal exposure to lead in the child population residing in the Flin Flon Area?
    - (2) Compared to the lead exposure levels measured in 2009, have levels in Flon Flon Area children increased, decreased, or remained the same in 2012?
    - (3) Are the personal factors associated with children's lead exposure measured in 2009 (e.g., place of residence, age, gender) similar in 2012?
  - General Methods:
    - Similar to the 2009 study (i.e., CAC and TAC oversight, children under 7 years old, conducted at the same time of year - September and October 2012), except only blood lead measured.
    - Environmental sampling involving soil, dust, water sampling collection and paint scanning added.
  - The Results:
    - Study Questions #1 & 2:
      - One hundred and eighteen children provided samples.
      - The geometric mean of blood lead in participants was 1.4 µg/dL, compared with 2.7 µg/dL found in 2009. The blood lead levels were statistically significantly lower in 2012 and the finding is consistent across all sub-groups according to age, gender and region.
      - Consistent with the 2009 study, children living in West Flin Flon, boys and toddlers between 2-3 years of age were more likely to have higher levels.
    - Study Question #3:
      - Only age of house was found to be associated with blood lead levels, which is consistent with the literature.
      - Low blood lead levels make it difficult to distinguish pathways from regular background.
    - Environmental Samples:
      - Concentrations of lead in indoor dust appear to be independent of concentrations of lead in either outdoor soil or paint.
      - Environmental media concentrations are poor indicator of blood lead levels.
      - Homes with higher concentrations of lead in the environmental samples did not equate to children living in that home having elevated blood lead levels.

Question: Was fish in the diet a factor?

Response: Fish consumption was included in the model but was not found to be a factor.

Comment: It is reassuring that the numbers are coming down.

Comment: The overall numbers are similar to those found in a recent study in Montreal. The Flin Flon levels are now lower than those in any other point source community that has been studied (e.g. Belledune, Port Colborne).

## **Next Steps**

- The complete draft report was recently sent to the TAC for their review over the next few weeks. A final report and recommendations will follow.
  - The results can then be provided to the community. Avenues for providing the results to the community were discussed and the suggestions include:
    - Open House (see action #13-01);
    - CBC North;
    - Call-in show on CFAR;
    - Facebook / Twitter; and
    - Provincial press release.

## **Conclusion**

- Well done to the Study Team for applying rigour to the study which allows solid comparisons to the 2009 study.
- Also well done to all those involved with community risk management activities which are all good public health messages.
- If no further risk management is necessary, then this will likely be the last meeting of the CAC, as further input for the communication plan can be obtained via phone and/or e-mail.
- The facilitator thanked the members for their work and indicated that it was a pleasure for him to work with them.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
13-01	Prepare for an Open House	Study Team	2013-04-02	2013-02-25, new