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# Media Release



## **New dashboard to provide information on local air pollution and smoke from wildfires**

**June 6, 2024 - For immediate release**

The Timiskaming Health Unit is pleased to announce a new dashboard on our website, [Wildfires and Your Health](#), where information on wildfires and local air quality is available. On this dashboard, you will find regularly updated information on the level of smoke and air quality in the Timiskaming district.

The frequency and duration of wildfires is expected to worsen as impacts from climate change continue to increase. Wildfire smoke contains pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), which can impact physical and mental health and overall well-being.

Long-term air quality monitors that measure ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and provide data for Environment Canada's Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), are not available in the Timiskaming district. Therefore, information from PurpleAir sensors will be used to inform the THU dashboard. PurpleAir sensors were installed by community partners across the Timiskaming district to monitor PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which is one of the main air pollutants of concern in wildfire smoke. The data collected is used to estimate an approximate AQHI value to help residents make informed decisions during periods of air pollution and smoke from wildfires.

Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Timiskaming Health Unit shared that "the addition of local PurpleAir monitors and the formation of a dashboard dedicated to monitoring smoke and air quality will provide more responsive reporting to area residents. THU will conduct regular regional surveillance of air quality during May to October to ensure the public has access to this information in a timely manner."

For additional details on Wildfire smoke, air quality, and your health: please consult [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/wildfire-smoke.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/wildfire-smoke.html)

For more information about smoke and air quality monitoring in the Timiskaming district and how to protect yourself, visit the dashboard and resource page on our website [Wildfires and Your Health](#).

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