

## Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Fall Webinar Series 2013

### Radon Gas: An Introduction to this #1 Environmental Carcinogen and Awareness Initiatives

October 23, 2013 from 12:00 - 13:00 (PDT)

Radon gas is an unstable radiological element that is heavier than air, odourless, colourless, and tasteless and has been dubbed the silent killer within the indoor environment. In June 2007 the new Health Canada Guideline of 200 Becquerels per cubic meter ( $\text{Bq/m}^3$ ) was established from the former 1988 Guideline of 800  $\text{Bq/m}^3$ . Health Canada estimates 8 to 15% of lung cancers attributable to Radon Gas, and a lifetime exposure at the new Guideline of 200  $\text{Bq/m}^3$  carries a 2% risk of lung cancer for non-smokers with a much higher risk for smokers.

This presentation introduces the health impacts of radon gas, the basics for testing the indoor environment, and building prevention and mitigation methods. Awareness initiatives will be discussed, including the efforts underway in Interior Health through a 3 year Health Canada grant involving the testing of day cares and the national Radon School Poster Contest.

**Greg Baytalan,**  
Air Quality Specialist, Interior Health Authority



Greg has been involved in Environmental Health since the mid 1980's and from June 2009 has been working as the Air Quality Specialist for Interior Health. His present duties involve indoor and outdoor air, noise and radiation. He holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Science, an Environmental Health Technology diploma from BCIT, and CIPHI certification.

In 2010, Greg completed the US EPA Radon Measurement and Mitigation Proficiency courses and more recently in 2012, the Canadian transfer exams for the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) certification.