



2021 - Air Quality for Outdoor Activities - Organizational Awareness and Adoption Survey

Survey Introduction

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

1. Who should participate in this survey?

This survey is intended to gather the viewpoints of leaders from an organization's perspective about issues relating to adverse air quality issues during outdoor events in Western Canada and Territories. Respondents should be those in a position to respond for an organization. For those wishing to respond from an individual, family, teaching, team, or event organizing perspective please [click here](#) for that survey.

Participation in this survey is strictly voluntary. You can leave the survey anytime before completing.

2. How much time it will take?

This survey has 11 questions and should take about five minutes to complete.

3. What is the purpose of this survey?

In 2018, Health Canada supported the Regulatory and Strategic Affairs Center (RASAC) to promote RASAC's suggested Air Aware Initiative and Guidelines. In 2016, RASAC had brought together scientists and policy experts from Health Canada, Alberta Environment, and Alberta Health to support the creation of *Air Aware Initiative – a policy guideline for outdoor sports* ([Click here](#)). Now in 2021, Health Canada has asked RASAC to update and expand its *2016 Guidelines*.

To assist in this update, we need your help to understand better:

- The level of awareness of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI),
- The use of AQHI in making outdoor activity decisions
- Current policies or guidelines related to adverse air quality
- Barriers to adverse air quality policy or guideline adoption.

4. Ethics

All answers to this survey are anonymous. We will summarize data by question, and where appropriate, by region, to give a picture of the current level of awareness and adoption of policies to manage organized outdoor activities in the face of adverse air quality. The summarized results will form part of a larger report that will be publicly available in 2021.

You will benefit from participating by helping shape the final guideline. Your name will not appear in any publication BUT you are free to let others know of your participation.

If you would like a paper copy of this survey or have any questions or comments please contact Richard Dixon at richard@rasac.ca.

This study has been reviewed and approved by Health Canada. Should you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Health Canada's Opel Vuzi at opel.vuzi@canada.ca.



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Background Questions (Questions 1 to 3)

Tell us about your organization

* 1. In which jurisdiction is your organization's headquarters?

- BC - British Columbia
- AB - Alberta
- SK - Saskatchewan
- MB - Manitoba
- YT - Yukon
- NT - Northwest Territories
- NU - Nunavut
- Other (please specify)

* 2. Which one of the following best describes your organization's jurisdiction?

- National
- Provincial / Territorial
- Regional / Local

* 3. Which of the following best describes your organization's focus?

- Professional sports
- Amateur sports
- School (Pre-school, Daycare, After-school, K-8, High School, College or University)
- Outdoor activities or events (e.g., camps, Scouts, Guides, festivals)
- Other (please specify)



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Awareness of Air Quality Health Index and 2016 Air Aware Guidelines (Questions 4 to 6)

* 4. Is your organization aware of Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index ([AQHI - Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 5. Is your organization aware of Health Canada's health messages for outdoor activities in the presence of adverse air quality ([Health Messages - Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 6. Is your organization aware of RASAC's 2016 Air Aware Guidelines ([Click here for Guidelines](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



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Outdoor Activity Policies Related to Air Quality (Questions 7 to 9)

* 7. Does your organization have a policy for managing outdoor activities in the presence of adverse air quality?

- Yes, we have **adopted** RASAC's 2016 Air Aware Guidelines
- Yes, we have **modified or adapted** RASAC's 2016 Air Aware Guidelines to suit our specific needs
- Yes, we have our own policy
- No, but we are working on developing / approving / implementing a policy
- No, we do not have a policy
- No, organizations should not have a policy for managing outdoor activities in the presence of adverse air quality
- Other (please specify)

* 8. Is your policy publicly accessible?

- Yes, open to the public via online
- Yes, open to the public via email
- Yes, but available to members only
- No
- Not applicable, we do not have a policy

* 9. If your organization does not have a policy, would you consider implementing a national, science-based guidelines related to managing organized outdoor activities in the presence of adverse air quality?

- Yes
- No
- Depends on what it says
- Not sure
- Not applicable - we have a policy
- Other (please specify)



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Perceived Barriers to Implementation (Questions 10 & 11)

* 10. Based on your past experience with your organization, have any of the following issues been identified as a potential barrier to the implementation of a science-based policy in your organization?

***participants** refers to all people impacted by a decision to alter a scheduled organized outdoor activity event, including: players, students, spectators, group leaders, teachers and school administrators, parents, referees, coaching staff, field personnel, and others.

**** alter or altered** means cancelled, rescheduled, postponed, moved to another venue, or otherwise changed.

- Lack of resources to implement a policy for adverse air quality events
- Lack of or access to AQHI data for the geographic location of the event
- Difficulty notifying participants* that the event is altered**
- Cost to alter** an event (e.g., loss of deposit / payment for facilities, transportation or accommodations, refund of tickets)
- Participants* would object to organization's decision to alter** the event
- Other (please specify)

11. Any other comments?



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Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Before you go

If you have a publicly accessible policy for adverse air quality and wish to share it please send an email to richard@rasac.ca and include a copy and/or link of your organization's policy. Thanks again for your support.