

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Canadian Air Quality Management System

Background:

Canada is adopting new air quality standards for industry and other emitters. The Air Quality Management System (AQMS) will continue to set consistent ambient air quality and industrial emissions standards across the country. It is designed to deliver flexibility to address regional differences in air quality issues Canada-wide. AQMS has established regional air sheds and local air management zones and allows Canadians access to air quality information through public reporting, modeling, and monitoring mechanisms.

Issue:

The AQMS is comprehensive and outcome-based, defining the desired ambient air quality through the setting of Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). It is also a place-based system with air zones for management established within air-sheds across provinces and territories, providing joint action in resolving trans-boundary air quality issues. AQMS is comprehensive because it will deal with all sources of air pollutants and requires a base level of environmental performance by key industrial sectors. It is collaborative in that it relies on the engagement of the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work together with stakeholders to develop standards, ensure continuous improvement in the overall system, and avoid duplicate regulation. AQMS uses the air pollution control regulatory schemes already used in the Provinces.

Recommendations:

1. That the Government of Saskatchewan continue to support AQMS and continue to actively implement it.
2. That the Government of Canada continue its involvement in AQMS through CCME as the preferred model for managing air quality in Canada, and that the federal role be focused on the CAAQS, BLIERs, air-zones development and

establishment, controls related to transportation, and not create separate control of air emissions under CEPA that would be duplicative of the provincial controls in place.

3. That the Government of Canada be asked to increase its national ambient air monitoring network, integrating to provincial and municipal systems, and establish prompt and public reporting of the resulting data.

History:

Adopted Policy Resolution 2011

Adopted Policy Resolution 2014

Adopted Policy Resolution 2017