

Please see the *information below provided by The Canadian Lung Association.
Keep in mind that while it is a superior list to the one provided by MLHU, it is by no means the most comprehensive or in depth list available.

But for simple comparison, the bolded words (see below) are NOT to be found in MLHU's report to CPSC on March 30, 2016.

Would it have made any difference to council if MLHU had presented an even slightly more thorough and in depth accounting of what they called "Wood Smoke Health Effects"?
Probably unlikely that it would have made any difference in terms of a vote / outcome.
The culturally engrained wood smoke myth - "its natural, its safe" is difficult to unmask.

None the less, it does make one wonder -

Why the brevity and scant information provide by MLHU (Council's "go to" source for all things health related) to the CPSC on the subject of Wood Smoke and Health????

And perhaps more importantly, why their tepid, generic go about your business, just "play nice" attitude?

Isn't MLHU's mandate to "promote and protect the health of the community"?

How does grossly underplaying the danger, not properly informing the public and not standing up for what is right remotely support that mandate?

MLHU's "Health Prevention Measures" should be alarming in the way they say nothing to condemn everyday residential wood burning, but rather appear quite complicit in continuing the normalization of wood burning.

The Canadian Lung Association recommends that you don't burn wood in residential setting.

*What's in wood smoke?

Environment Canada and Health Canada have identified many hazardous chemical substances in wood smoke, including:

(bolded words are NOT found in MLHU's report to CPSC on March 30, 2016)

- PM2.5 (**inhalable particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter**) - PM2.5, which consists of a mixture of microscopic particles of varied size and composition, **has been declared a toxic substance under the Environmental Protection Act**. These particles can be inhaled deep into the lungs, **leading to serious respiratory problems, including excess mortality, especially among those with pre-existing cardiopulmonary illness**.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) - can reduce the blood's ability to supply necessary oxygen to the body's tissues, which can cause stress to the heart. When inhaled at higher levels, CO may cause fatigue, headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion **and disorientation** and, at very high levels, lead to

unconsciousness **and death**. Fire Prevention Canada advises that CO detectors be installed in every home that has a combustion appliance or an attached garage.

- **Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) - can lower the resistance to lung infections. In particular, nitrogen dioxide can cause shortness of breath and irritate the upper airways, especially in people with lung diseases such as emphysema and asthma.**
- **Hydrocarbons (HC) - can damage the lungs.**
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) - can cause respiratory irritation **and illness. Some VOCs emitted by wood-burning appliances, such as benzene, are known to be carcinogenic.**
- **Formaldehyde - can cause coughing, headaches and eye irritation and act as a trigger for people with asthma.**
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) - Prolonged exposure to PAH's is believed to pose a cancer risk.
- **Dioxins and furans- Some dioxins and furans are carcinogenic.**
- **Acrolein - can cause eye and respiratory tract irritation.**