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MOPIA meets with Conservation and Climate Minister Guillemard



(from left to right) Kirk Esau, Botho Kramer, John Kubilanski, Genoa de Bruin, The Honourable Sarah Guillemard (Minister), Mark Miller, Meghan Skorodenski, Kent Cielen

MOPIA met with Manitoba's Minister of Conservation and Climate, The Honourable Sarah Guillemard, at the Manitoba Legislature on March 2nd. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight MOPIA's past achievements, update the Minister of MOPIA's current initiatives and the many positive climate mitigation opportunities going forward. The Minister shared ideas and was encouraging.

MOPIA reflected on our success in showcasing Manitoba's climate and ozone strategies to the world, having hosted several international study tours in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme with guests from Burkino Faso, China, Bahrain, Uruguay and other nations.

MOPIA highlighted how we have facilitated certification training, now reaching over 16,000 persons including for the first time, some on First Nation communities. Potent greenhouse gases are being captured from fridges to autos and all types of equipment containing refrigerants harmful to the environment. How MOPIA is self-sufficient and not dependent on government subsidies, among other qualities

Going forward, MOPIA is encouraging a regulatory update, including amendments to streamline and improve the existing Regulation. MOPIA continues to gauge and inform our stakeholders of the international agenda to phase-out certain refrigerants (i.e. HFCs) and encourage sustainable, climate efficient HVAC/R technologies.

MOPIA will continue to dialogue with the Ministers' staff to ensure everything from environmental enforcement to strategies on how MOPIA will contribute to make Manitoba a leader in green and climate approaches.

Mercury Recovery Continues...



Laura Bjornson (MOPIA Executive Assistant), displays the pales used to accept thermostats and mercury baring instruments.

MOPIA continues to be one of several mercury switch (thermostat) depots across Manitoba available for our stakeholders. Check out the depot closest to you at: www.hrai.ca/program-participants

Mercury exposure is highly toxic and The United Nations estimates that mercury toxicity has caused learning disabilities and impaired the nervous system of millions of people worldwide. The Minamata Convention (2017) on Mercury seeks to address this global challenge. See: www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-comes-together-tackle-mercury-poisoning

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THERMOSTAT RECYCLING

January 2020 Hottest on Record

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reported that January 2020 was the warmest month on record based on the data of 141 years of climate records. See: www.noaa.gov/news/january-2020-was-earth-s-hottest-january-on-record



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Certification Training Dates



MOPIA's next one-day provincial certification class is Saturday, March 28th in Winnipeg. Any person working on the gas side of an air conditioning, and/or HVAC/R system requires this certification under Manitoba's ODS and Other Halocarbons Regulation 103/94.

You must register in advance by contacting MOPIA at email (mopia@mymts.net) or phone (204.338.2222 or 1.888.667.4203). The cost of participating is \$185 per student.

The class will run from 8 am – 5 pm with an exam. For those unable to attend an onsite/in-class setting, living in remote rural communities or other circumstances, you may be eligible to do the class via correspondence.

Additional class dates are set up when there is demand and are currently tentative and include:

- Saturday, April 25 in Winnipeg
- Wednesday, May 6 in Brandon
- Saturday, May 23 in Winnipeg
- Wednesday, May 27 in Winkler

Geothermal Conference on Horizon

The Manitoba Geothermal Energy Alliance is hosting an information conference and showcase "Leading by Example" on April 9 in Winnipeg. See: www.mgea.ca/news/2020-geothermal-conference/



MOPIA's 26th AGM – You are Invited



MOPIA's 26th Annual General Meeting is set for Earth Day, April 22, 2020 in Winnipeg at the Canad Inn (Polo Park) beginning at 6:30 pm.

Hear from MOPIA's Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director about our successes in 2018-2019 including our audited Financial Report for the period.

Nominations for election to MOPIA's Board of Directors are available on-line at MOPIA's website including the Agenda and other relevant meeting logistics information.

There is no cost to attend MOPIA's AGM although you may opt to purchase a meal at Aalto's within the meeting site.

Summer Student Positions??

MOPIA has applied to several summer employment initiatives and the status of these may be revealed soon. If you know of any student or youth aged 15-30 who is interested in the environment and MOPIA's tasks, alert them that positions may be available to apply in the coming weeks. Check our website and Instagram for information.

MOPIA Spring/Summer Outreach Info Exchange Sessions



MOPIA has begun to plan our annual outreach sessions schedule which will be offered across Manitoba throughout May-July. Plan to attend one of our sessions highlighting ozone and climate trends, industry innovations, regulatory issues...

and most importantly hearing from our stakeholders. More details will be available by April, but please keep this on your events radar! And, let us know if you'd like us to host an event in your community, or even for your organization or company.