

## Supplementary Information

**Supplementary Figure S1:** The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and related health messages from Health Canada and Environment Canada.



Health messages for “at risk” individuals and the general public for each of the AQHI Health Risk Categories.

| Health Risk | Air Quality Health Index | Health Messages  |  |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|--|
|             |                          | At Risk Population <sup>1</sup>  | General Population   |
| Low         | 1 - 3                    | Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.   | Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.  |
| Moderate    | 4 - 6                    | Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.          | No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.             |
| High        | 7 - 10                   | Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.     | Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation. |
| Very High   | Above 10                 | Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion. | Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.  |

<sup>1</sup> People with heart or breathing problems are at greater risk. Follow your doctor's usual advice about exercising and managing your condition. Table adapted from information provided by Health Canada and Environment Canada (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cas-aqhi/>).