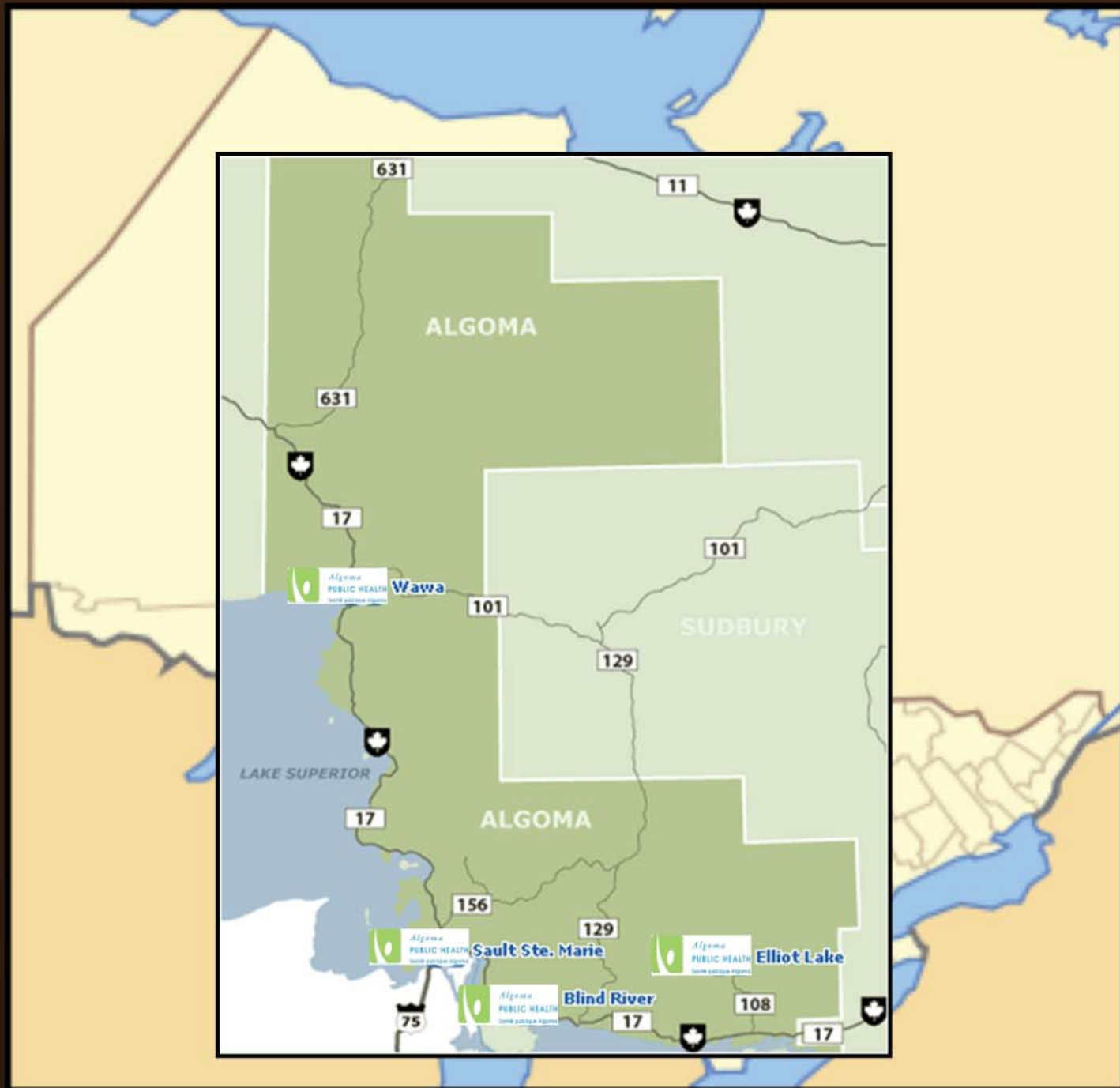




# Algoma Public Health 2012-2013 Radon Awareness Campaign



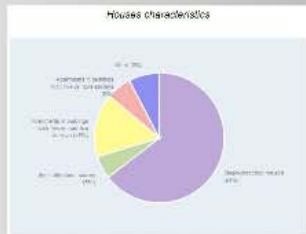


### History of High Radon, Uranium mining

Elliot Lake mentioned in OBC

- 60,000 private homes

Large retired population



## Breaking the Stigma

Feedback from speaking to community members, city workers, building contractors, hardware stores and real estate agents.

I don't offend no peo'...  
 we need to paradise our living according to God...  
 I don't offend, I don't care...  
 I don't offend no one but, if I was an important man,  
 I don't offend the people and the law...  
 we are not in Ellis Island, we don't need to satisfy

## Health Canada Cross Canada Survey

2012 6.9% across Canada

93 test kits were distributed in Algoma District.

91.4% below 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

7.5% 200-600Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

1.1% above 5005q/m<sup>3</sup>

### *In house study results*

From the 2012-2013 event we received almost 200 results from contractors and community members. (short term)



### Primary Objective

To identify if increasing awareness and providing education in the community will increase testing by home owners.

To educate and provide community members on the dangers of high radon exposures.

To convey the dangers of smoking + radon gas.

### Secondary Objective

To increase the Algoma Public Health social Media Outreach for future events.

To increase website usage

# Background

History of High Radon, Uranium mining

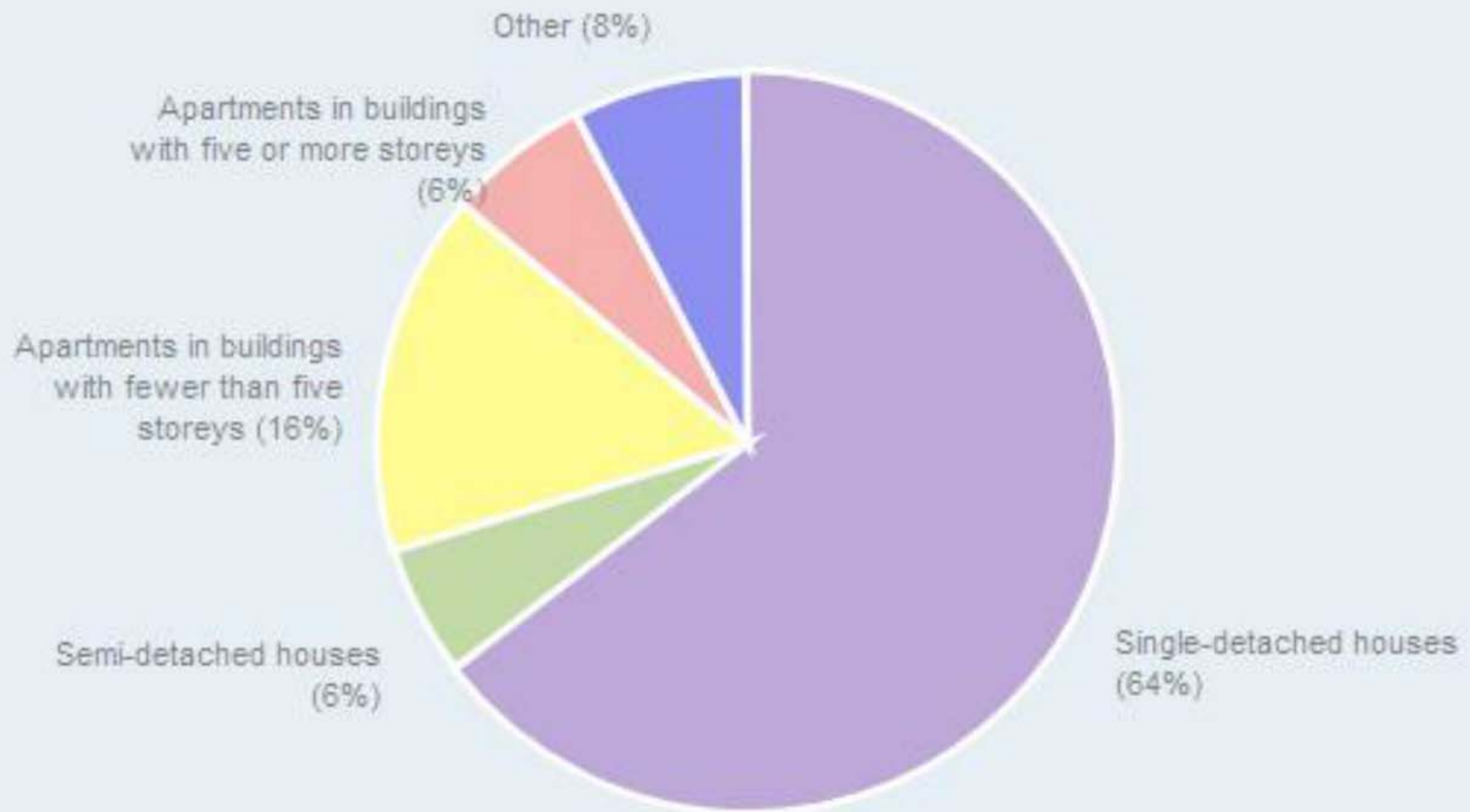
Elliot Lake mentioned in OBC

~ 60,000 private homes

Large retired population



## *Houses characteristics*



## ***Primary Objective***

To identify if increasing awareness and providing education in the community will increase testing by home owners.

To educate and provide community members on the dangers of high radon exposures.

To convey the dangers of smoking + radon gas

## ***Secondary Objective***

To increase the Algoma Public Health social Media Outreach for future events.

To increase website usage

# Breaking the Stigma

Feedback from speaking to community members, city workers, building contractors, hardware stores and real estate agents.

*hasn't killed me yet...*

*we need to prioritize our funding according to risk...*

*I don't smoke, I don't care...*

*I can't afford a test kit, if it was so important why  
doesn't the health unit test for us*

*we are not in Elliot Lake, we don't need to worry*



ip (ORWG)  
ther to promote  
th Canada,  
g Association  
ge to the community  
to promote radon

Saving the world one inspection at a time...

Radon Gas



Radon is a gas produced naturally in the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock that occurs naturally in the environment. You don't see, smell or taste it.

What's going on? Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can be found in homes. It's a leading cause of lung cancer and is the second leading cause of death from lung cancer in Canada.

Small amounts of radon gas can be found in almost all homes. But when it builds up to dangerous levels, it can cause lung cancer. Radon gas can be found in foundation walls and floors, cracks, pipes, and other places.

Thank you, Radon, for your informative presentation. This meeting is just another step into a home through the fog of radon. We will be working to raise the level of our great partnership between Alton and Saint Catharines for our Radon Gas with Alton Public Health's website in some significant way.



An important recommendation from Algoma Public Health

Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:47 AM



NEWS LOCAL  
RADON

Health Canada/Algoma Public Health warning of the dangers of radon gas

By Bob Minelli, Special to Sault This Week  
Thursday, December 27, 2012 10:29:36 EST AM

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO - Sault residents are getting plenty of information in recent weeks about the potential link between lung cancer deaths and high levels of radon gas in homes and buildings.

Next Steps

- Evaluate the overall results of the education and outreach activities
- Continue working in our communities and with government stakeholders to raise radon awareness
- Engage different stakeholders



- Twitter
- Facebook
- Website
- News
- PSA
- Posters
- Banners
- Displays
- Community Engagement
- Television
- Radio
- Presentations
- Letters

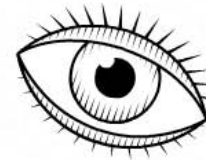
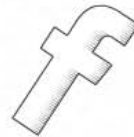
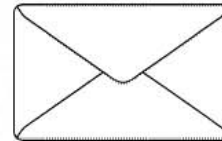


High radon only

Acknowledgments

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Displays  
Community Engagement  
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Letters





the world one  
Inspection at a time...

### Radon Gas



Phil Wong from Algoma Public Health speaks to Sault College's Home Inspection students about the effects of Radon Gas in homes.

Radon is a gas produced naturally by the breakdown of uranium in soils and rocks that occurs naturally in the environment. You can't see, smell or taste it.

Phil Wong from Algoma Public Health (APH) spoke to students at Sault College's Home Inspection program about exposure to radon gas found in Canadian homes.

Small amounts of radon gas can be found in almost all homes that are in contact with the ground. It is higher levels of this gas that can harm humans. Radon can seep into a home through dirt floors, cracks in foundation walls and floors, sumps, gaps in pipes and basement drains.

Thank you, Phil, for your informative presentation. This activity is yet another benefit of our great partnership between APH and Sault College. For more information on radon gas visit Algoma Public Health's webpage at [www.algomapublichealth.ca](http://www.algomapublichealth.ca)

## An important recommendation from Algoma Public Health

Wednesday, November 06, 2013 by: SooToday.com Staff



NEWS RELEASE  
ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH  
Algoma Public Health recommends that you have your home tested for radon this winter.

### NEWS LOCAL

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### In Algoma Now

**What is Radon?**  
Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is found naturally in the environment. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil. Traces of radon gas can be found in homes in all parts of Canada.

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Phone line hours: Monday - Friday - 9am - 4pm



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### Radon Gas and Your Health

**News Release**  
For immediate release  
November 5, 2013

Algoma Public Health recommends that you test your home this winter for radon gas. Radon gas is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is found naturally in the environment. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil. Traces of radon gas can be found in homes in all parts of Canada.

- According to Health Canada, radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer, contributing to about 10 percent of all lung cancer deaths.
- Health Canada's Great Canadian Survey has shown that high levels of radon gas can be found in homes built before and in new homes built in the last decade.
- It is estimated that 847 lung cancer deaths in Ontario each year are attributed to radon gas exposure.

"Many homes create a vacuum effect which can draw in radon gas. The gas accumulates and long term exposure will lead to lung cancer," says Philip Thorne, a public health inspector at Algoma Public Health. "A major source of entry is through cracks in the foundation, floors and walls in your home."

The risk of developing lung cancer from radon increases if you are a smoker. Every house will have different levels of radon gas. The only way to know what you are being exposed to is to test your home. Bring your radon gas levels to as low as possible to protect you and your family.

Algoma Public Health strongly recommends that home owners test for radon gas. You can't smell it, see it or taste it. The only way to know if you have it is to test for it. A test kit can be purchased at your local hardware store, online from a reputable supplier or from a Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (CNRPP) certified contractor for testing and mitigation advice.

Join the conversation on Facebook or Twitter.



**Algoma Public Health**  
@AlgomaHealth

Official account for Algoma Public Health. Account not verified.  
245 Tweets · 167 Followers · 207 Following

**Tweets**

Algoma Public Health @AlgomaHealth  
Due to recent flooding in our region, there is some helpful information regarding radon testing. Radon testing is important for all homes. #radontesting #healthinfo

Algoma Public Health @AlgomaHealth  
Get it done! Flu shot is confirmed in Algoma. Radon testing is important for all homes. #radontesting #healthinfo



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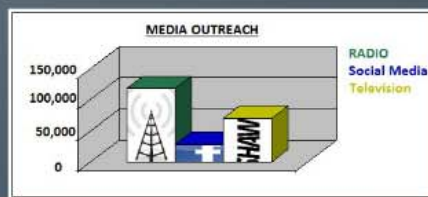
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"Many homes create a vacuum effect which can draw in radon gas. The gas accumulates and long term exposure will lead to lung cancer," says Philip Thorne, a public health inspector at Algoma Public Health. "A major source of entry is through cracks in the foundation, floors and walls in your home."

The risk of developing lung cancer from radon increases if you are a smoker. Every house will have different levels of radon gas. The only way to know what you are being exposed to is to test your home. Bring your radon gas levels to as low as possible to protect you and your family.

Algoma Public Health strongly recommends that home owners test for radon gas. You can't smell it, see it or taste it. The only way to know if you have it is to test for it. A test kit can be purchased at your local hardware store, online from a reputable supplier or from a Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (CNRPP) certified contractor for testing and mitigation advice.

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### Win an iPad

Test your knowledge  
about hepatitis C (hep C).



### Knowing and Growing

A new resource starting  
in 2014.



Is Radon in your  
home?

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### Drinking Water Safety

Flooding has the potential to  
contaminate drinking water with  
harmful germs that can make us  
sick.

### Get tick smart

First case contracted locally

### Radon Gas and Your Health

Every house will have different  
levels of radon gas.

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## TIME TO BOOK YOUR FLU SHOT!

**Appointments only. Call**  
705-541-2332 or 1-800-469-2449

**Phone line hours:**  
Monday - Friday - 9am - 4pm

### It's time to book your flu shot.

The flu shot helps  
strengthen your body's  
natural immune response  
against the flu.



Health Info  Search

[Home](#) > [Environmental & Health Hazards](#) > [Radon](#)



## Radon

### What is Radon?

Radon is produced when uranium found in soil, rock or water decays. It can be found in the soil all over Canada! The Radon gas naturally rises up beneath us and goes up into our atmosphere. It can get into any type of building and build up in your home. Breathing in Radon Gas for extended periods of time can potentially be hazardous to you and your family.

### What you need to know about Radon

Radon is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that is found naturally in the environment.

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer only second to smoking! Radon can increase your chances of lung cancer if you are a smoker and according to the Canadian Lung Association Radon Gas exposure accounts for roughly 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths in Canada.

Radon in living areas is measured in Becquerel's per cubic meter (Bq/m<sup>3</sup>). In 2006, Health Canada changed the acceptable standard annual radon concentration from 800 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> to 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. Health Canada estimates that some parts of Canada have over 20 per cent above the recommended levels.

Levels of Radon can differ from home to home it all depends on the construction and location.

Water from some deep wells may contain dissolved radon. This can lead to exposure by either drinking the water or inhaling the radon that has been released when that water is agitated (e.g. showering, washing clothes or cooking). While drinking water that contains radon has not been shown to be harmful to health, the additional radon released into the air in water vapour may increase the inhalation hazard.

### How Radon gets in your home

Radon that is released outdoors is diluted in the air and is not a threat. However, in enclosed spaces, like basements, it can accumulate to high levels.

Radon gas enters into the building through cracks in foundation walls and floors, or gaps around pipes and cables. Radon levels are generally highest in basements and crawl spaces because these areas are nearest to the source and are usually poorly ventilated.



News & Alerts

### Drinking Water Safety

Flooding has the potential to contaminate drinking water with harmful germs that can make us sick.

### Get tick smart

First case contracted locally

### Radon Gas and Your Health

Every house will have different levels of radon gas.

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## Radon Gas and You

### News Release

For immediate release  
November 5, 2013

Algoma Public Health recommends that you test for radon, a colourless, odourless, radioactive natural breakdown of uranium in soil in Canada.

- According to Health Canada radon is responsible for about 16 percent of all lung cancer deaths.
- Health Canada's Cross-Canada radon program encourages homeowners both far and in close proximity to radon sources to test for radon.
- It is estimated that 847 lung cancer deaths are attributed to radon exposure each year in Canada.

"Many homes create a vacuum effect that can pull radon into the home; exposure will lead to lung cancer," says Dr. David Smith, Medical Officer of Health. "A major source of entry is through the foundation of the home."

Your risk of developing lung cancer increases with different levels of radon gas. The higher the level, the greater the risk.

Bring your radon gas levels to as low as possible.

Algoma Public Health strongly recommends that you see it or taste it. The only way to know if you have radon is to test. You can find a radon test kit at a hardware store, online from a reputable supplier or through a Radon Program (C-NRPP) contractor for free.

Join the conversation on [Facebook](#)

News & Alerts

### Drinking Water Safety

Flooding has the potential to contaminate drinking water with harmful germs that can make us sick.

### Get tick smart

First case contracted locally

### Radon Gas and Your Health

Every house will have different levels of radon gas.

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## It's time to book your flu shot.

The flu shot helps strengthen your body's natural immune response against the flu.



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#### [Drinking Water Safety](#)

Flooding has the potential to contaminate drinking water with harmful germs that can make us sick.

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## Radon Gas and Your Health

### News Release

For immediate release

November 5, 2013

Algoma Public Health recommends that you test your home this winter for radon gas. Radon gas is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that is found naturally in the environment. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil. Traces of radon gas can be found in homes in all parts of Canada.

- According to Health Canada radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer, attributing to about 16 percent of all lung cancer deaths.
- Health Canada's Cross-Canada Survey has shown that high levels of radon gas can be found in homes both far and in close proximity to uranium deposits.
- It is estimated that 847 lung cancer deaths in Ontario each year is attributed to radon gas exposure.

"Many homes create a vacuum effect which can draw in radon gas, the gas accumulates and long term exposure will lead to lung cancer," says Philip Wong, a public health inspector at Algoma Public Health. "A major source of entry is through cracks in the foundation, floors and drains in your home."

Your risk of developing lung cancer from radon increases if you are a smoker! Every house will have different levels of radon gas. The only way to know what you are being exposed to is to test your home.

Bring your radon gas levels to as low as possible to protect you and your family.

Algoma Public Health strongly recommends that home owners test for radon gas. You can't smell it, see it or taste it. The only way to know is if you test for it. Test kits can be purchased at your local hardware store, online from a reputable dealer or look for a Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) contractor for testing and mitigation advice.

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@AlgomaHealth

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## Canada Trends · [Change](#)

#BaconMeltLove Promoted

#afpcongress

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#Topoli



# Algoma Public Health

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Official account for Algoma Public Health. Account not monitored 24/7. Terms of use: [bit.ly/142iKDN](http://bit.ly/142iKDN)

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245  
TWEETS

167  
FOLLOWING

207  
FOLLOWERS



Following



Followed by [SaultCollege](#), [Leo Vecchio](#), [Deputy Bob Kates](#) and 18 others.

## Tweets



**Algoma Public Health** @AlgomaHealth

2h

Due to recent [#flooding](#) in our region, here is some helpful information regarding [#drinkingwater](#). [#publichealth](#) [bit.ly/1fclu51](http://bit.ly/1fclu51)

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More



**Algoma Public Health** @AlgomaHealth

23h

Get tick smart. [#Lymedisease](#) confirmed in Algoma. [#publichealth](#) [bit.ly/19A05f5](http://bit.ly/19A05f5)

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## Algoma Public Health

2,922 likes · 59 talking about this

2012

NEW  
Phone line hours:  
Mon - Fri: 9am-4pm

Government Organization  
We support healthy communities in the Algoma district.  
Promote. Prevent. Protect.

About

#AlgomaFoodS

Photos

2,922

Likes



Families in the Kitch...



Videos

Highlights



Algoma Public Health shared a link.  
about an hour ago

#Flooding has the potential to contaminate drinking water with harmful germs that can make us sick. Due to the recent flooding in

Recent Posts by Others on Algoma Public Health

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Ontario 211

Never had to look for help in Northern Ontario? 211 is ...  
2 3 · Yesterday at 8:04am

Promote. Prevent. Protect.



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Photos

Likes



Algoma Public Health

Likes ▾

✓ Liked



Likes and People Talking About This

People Talking About This

166

Total Likes

1,010

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November 25, 2012

Most Popular Week [?]

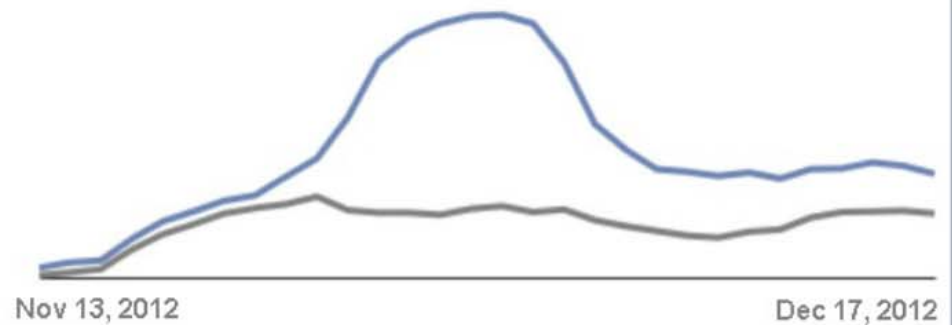
Sault Sainte Marie, ON,  
Canada

Most Popular City [?]

25-34 years old

Most Popular Age Group [?]

- People Talking About This
- New Likes Per Week





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about an hour ago

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Recent Posts by Others on Algoma Public Health

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**Ontario 211**

Never had to look for help in Northern Ontario? 211 is ...

2 likes · 3 comments · Yesterday at 8:04am



**Algoma Public Health**

3,663 likes · 94 talking about this

2013

Government Organization

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Promote. Prevent. Protect.

About



Photos



3,663

Likes



Families in the Kitch...



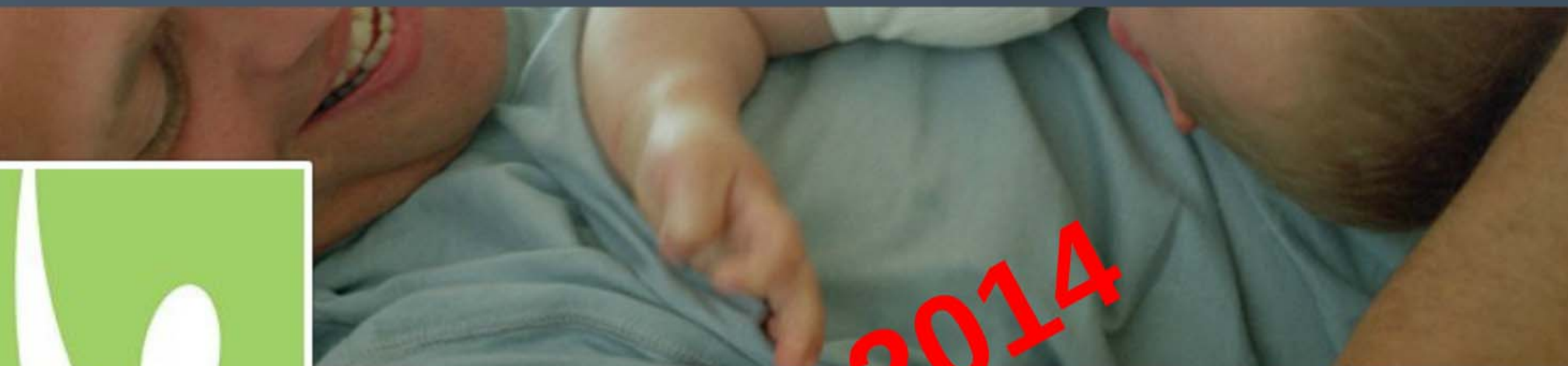
Videos

1

Highlights



Join the conversation on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



## Algoma Public Health

4,034 likes · 90 talking about this · 26 were here

✓ Liked

✓ Following

Message



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We support healthy communities in the Algoma district.  
Promote. Prevent. Protect.

About – Suggest an Edit



Photos



4,034

Likes



Families in the Kitche...



Videos



✓ Liked

out This

Total Likes

1,010



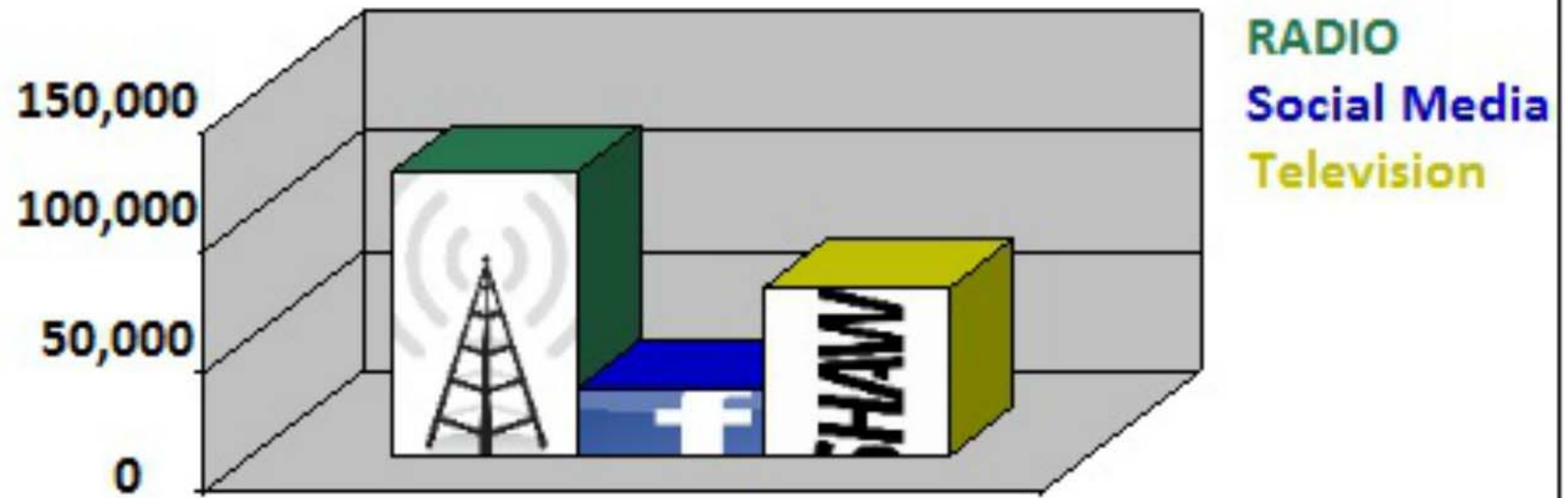
#OneOfMyFavoriteMoviesIs

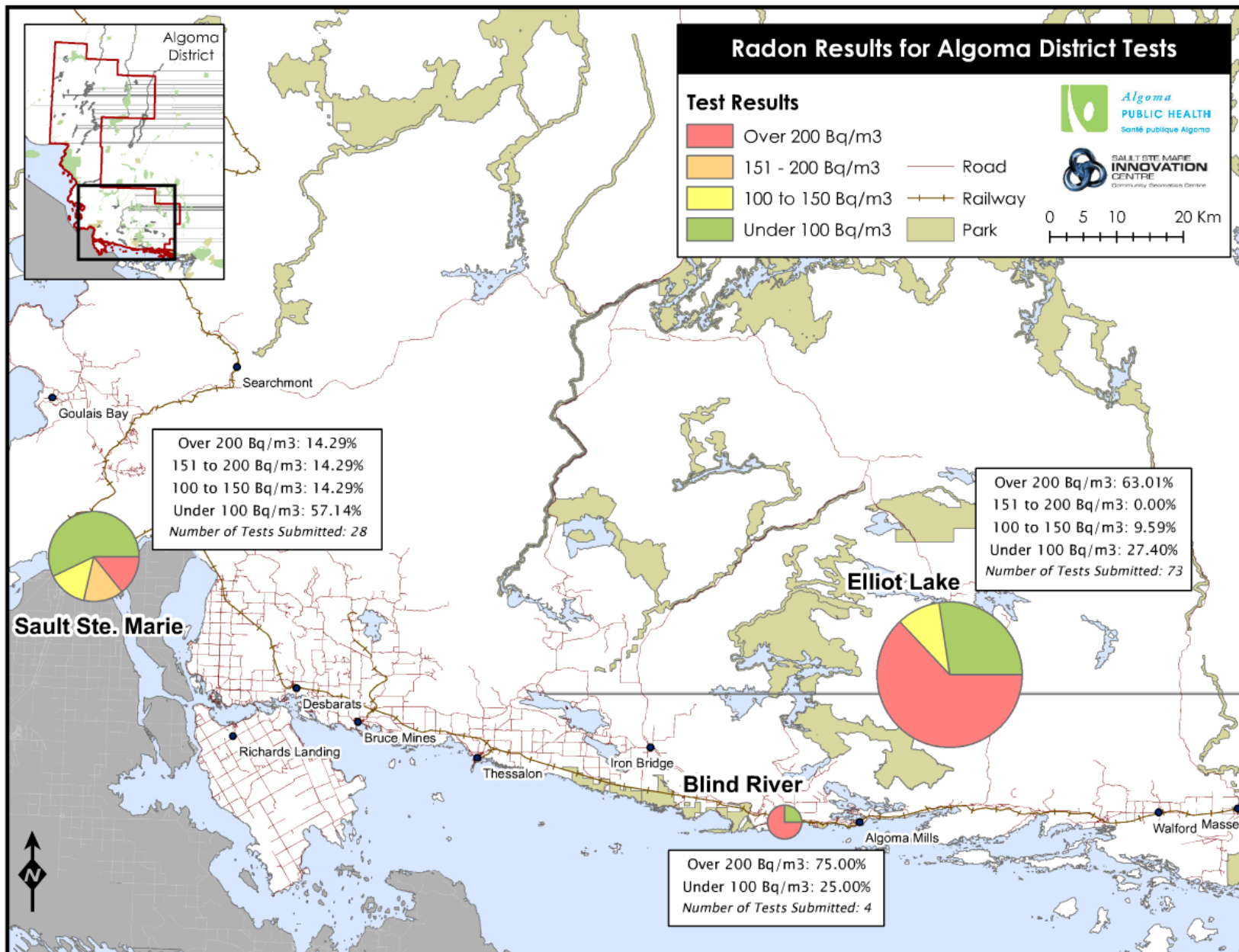
#Topoli

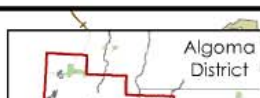
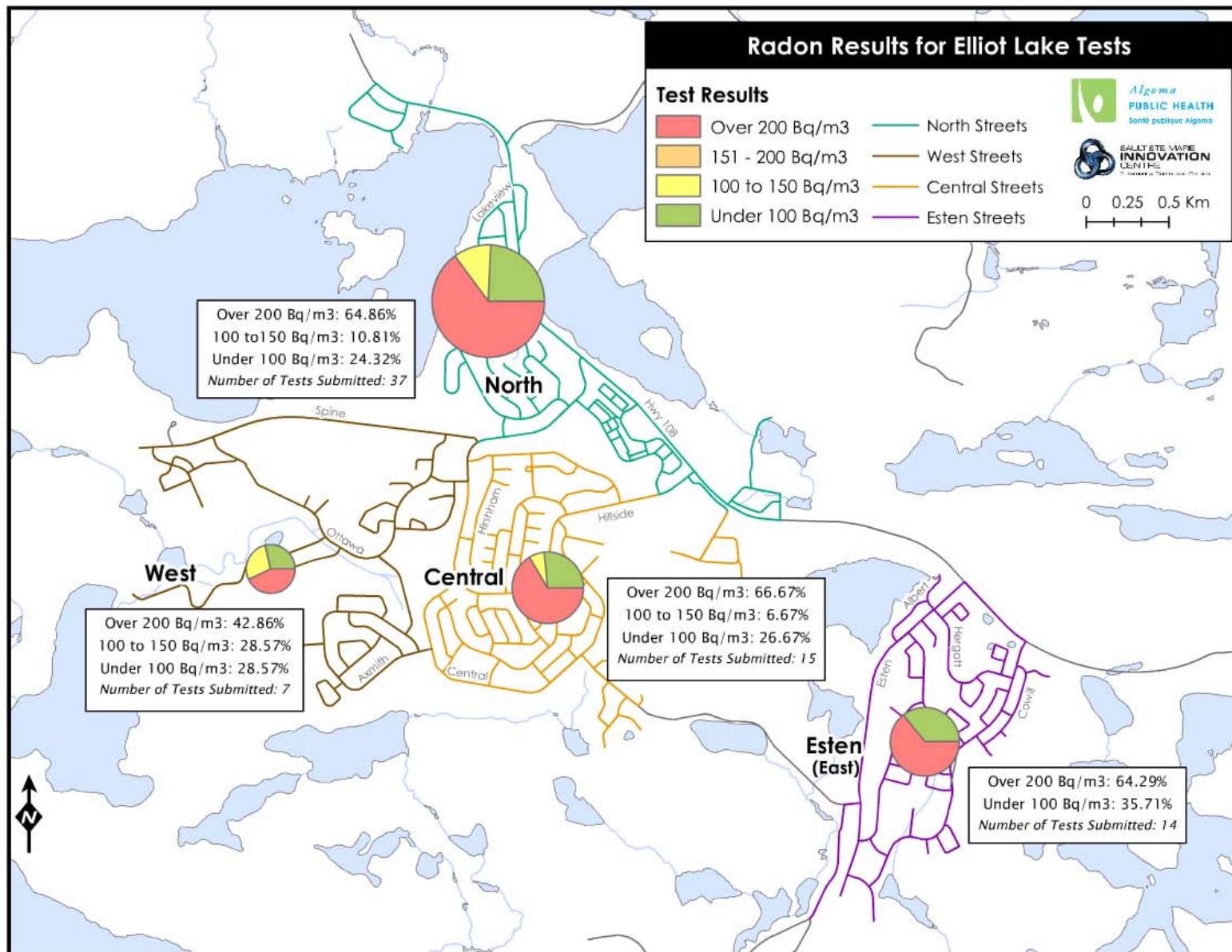
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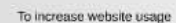






### Radon Results for Algoma District Tests

Large retired population





# Health Canada Cross Canada Survey

2012 6.9% across Canada

93 test kits were distributed in Algoma District

91.4% below 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

7.5% 200-600Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

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8.6% above 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>

## *In house study results*

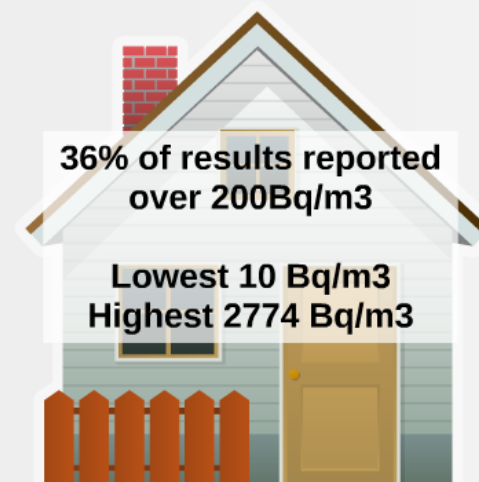
From the 2012-2013 event we received



1.4% below 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
1.5% 200-600Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
1.1% *above 600Bq/m<sup>3</sup>*  
1.6% *above 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>*

## ***In house study results***

From the 2012-2013 event we received almost 200 results from contractors and community members. (short term)





lts

ed

m)



**36% of results reported  
over 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**

**Lowest 10 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
Highest 2774 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**

# Acknowledgments

*Thank you to all supporting  
organizations and the ORWG!*

