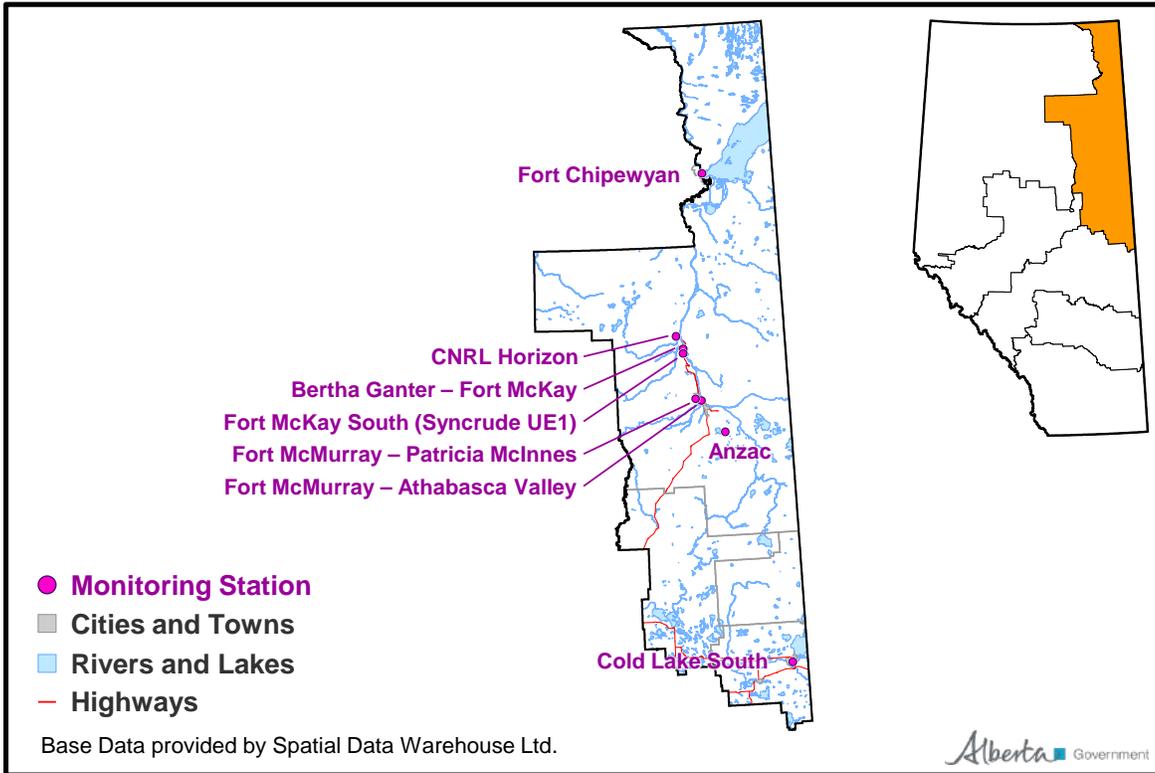


The Air Quality Management System (AQMS) provides a comprehensive, cross-Canada framework for collaborative action to further protect human health and the environment through continuous improvement of air quality. The Air Zone Management Framework, a component of the AQMS, provides a system for the management, monitoring and reporting actions to be implemented at an air zone level.



The annual Air Zones Report summarizes the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) achievement status and management levels for Alberta’s Air Zones for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ozone (O₃) monitoring results.

Eight stations in the Lower Athabasca air zone were used in the 2011 to 2013 assessment. These stations are located within communities or in areas accessed by members of the public.

One station, the CNRL Horizon station, was assigned to the orange management level for PM_{2.5}, Actions for Preventing CAAQS Exceedance. All other stations in the zone were assigned to lower management levels. As such, the zone is assigned to the orange management level for PM_{2.5}. This management level indicates that PM_{2.5} concentrations are approaching CAAQS and proactive action is needed to prevent exceedance.

The Anzac station was assigned to the yellow management level for ozone. As such, the air zone is assigned to the yellow management level for ozone, Actions for Preventing Air Quality Deterioration. This management level calls for improvement to air quality using early and ongoing actions for continuous improvement.

A management response will be developed after conducting analyses to better understand the cause of elevated PM_{2.5}. A scientific study of the cause may include assessing the various factors that can lead to poor air quality, including emissions and meteorology in the area, and may include conducting modelling to understand where effective action(s) may be taken. Stakeholders in the Lower Athabasca air zone will be engaged during the development of the management response. The management plan will be developed within two years.

Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards Management Levels

Substance:		Ozone	PM _{2.5}	
Averaging time:		8 Hours	Annual	24 Hours
Metric:		3-yr average of the annual 4 th highest daily maximum 8-hr average concentrations	3-yr average of the annual average concentrations	3-yr average of the annual 98 th percentile of the daily 24-hour average concentrations
Management Level	Red	Actions for Achieving Air Zone CAAQS		
	Threshold:	63 ppb	10.0 µg/m ³	28 µg/m ³
	Orange	Actions for Preventing CAAQS Exceedance		
	Threshold:	56 ppb	6.4 µg/m ³	19 µg/m ³
	Yellow	Actions for Preventing Air Quality Deterioration		
	Threshold:	50 ppb	4.0 µg/m ³	10 µg/m ³
Green	Actions for Keeping Clean Areas Clean			

The management level that an air zone is assigned to is a long-term indicator designed to derive policy action, and does not reflect the day to day changes in air quality. As such it should not be used for current conditions reporting or daily activity planning. For current information on air quality in Alberta, the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) reports air quality in real-time at a number of stations across the province.

Albertans can access information on air quality in real-time through the AQHI available on the department’s website. This enables Albertans to make decisions about their daily activities, and understand what the air quality means to their health.

- [Air Quality Health Index](#)