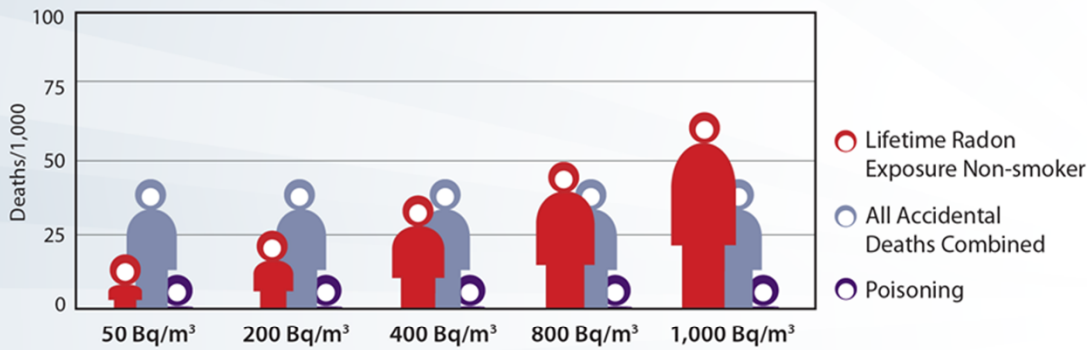


Radon “The Silent Killer”

Protecting Family at Home, School and Work

Alan J. Whitehead, Radon Environmental Management
2014 BCBEC Conference & AGM
September 24th, 2014





**“Saving lives is our mission.
Raising awareness is our passion.”**

- Alan Whitehead, President & CEO

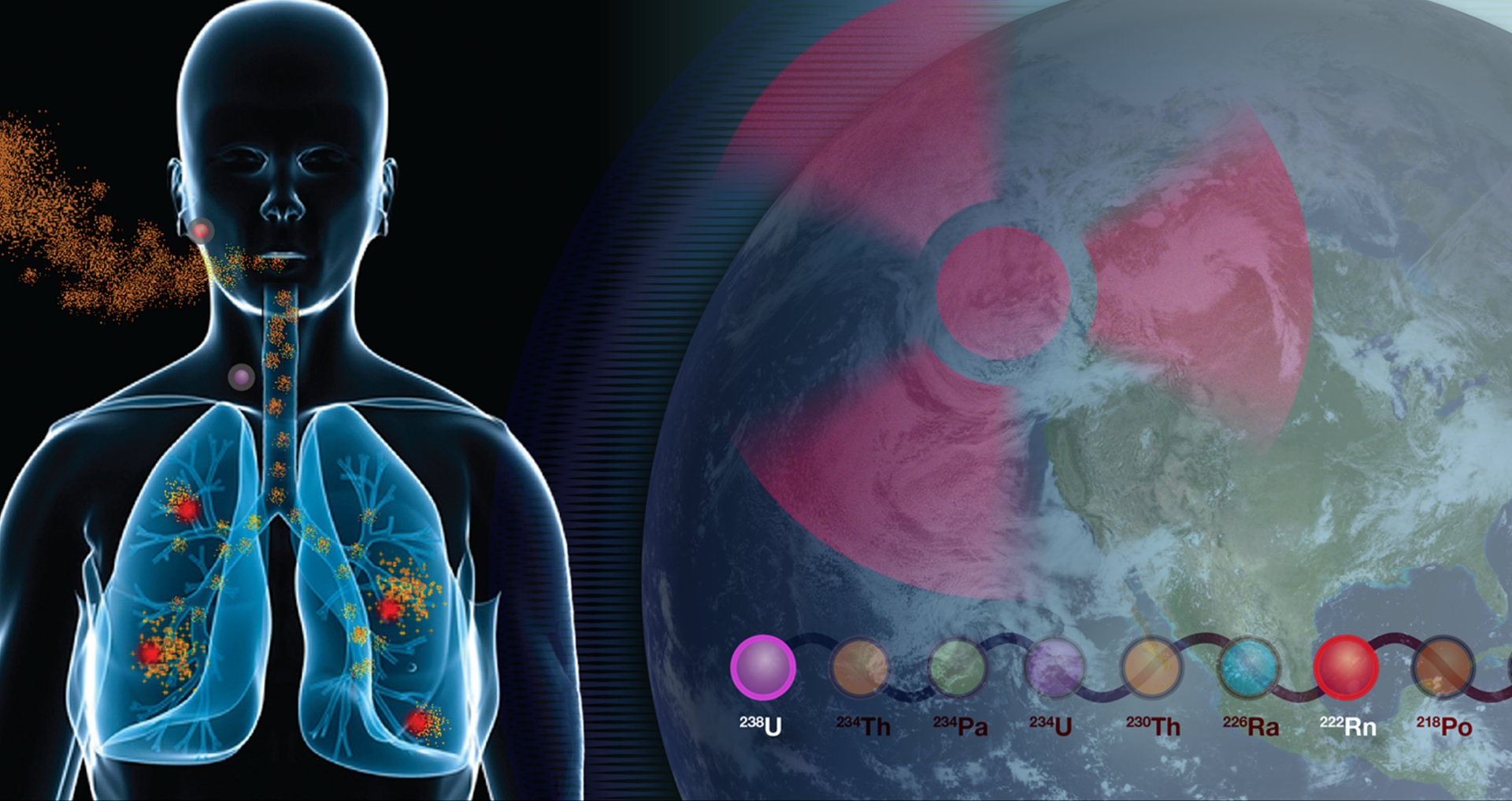


Radon Environmental is a building and health sciences company focused on reducing public exposures to radon gas. The leading environmental cause of lung cancer is radon exposure.

The company is investigating and developing new and innovative approaches to minimizing public exposure.

Radon Environmental: The Company





Radon is a radioactive gas, spontaneously released from rocks and soils during the decay of uranium. Traces of these naturally-occurring radioactive materials have been present in the earth's crust since the formation of the planet.

Radon is present to some degree in all indoor environments.

What is Radon?

**“The lower the radon concentration in a home,
the lower the risk as there is no known threshold
below which radon exposures carries no risk.”**

- WHO Handbook on Indoor Radon



The World Health Organization, US Environmental Protection Agency, Public Health England, and Health Canada set guidelines for radon exposure.

The WHO recommends that countries adopt reference levels of 100 Bq/m^3 .

The David Suzuki Foundation and Public Health Ontario also recommends the Canadian guideline for indoor radon be set at a level of 100 Bq/m^3 .

Radon Safety Around the World

RADON-INDUCED LUNG CANCER STATISTICS *

	Canada	USA	World
Annual lung cancer deaths	20,100	158,000	1.38 million
Percent lung cancer deaths attributable to radon exposure	16%	14%	14%
Estimated annual radon-induced lung cancer deaths	3,200	22,100	192,500

* Canadian Cancer Statistics 2012
Health Effects of Exposure to Radon: BEIR VI
WHO Handbook on Indoor Radon

There is a preventable health care burden due to inadequate public awareness of radon - a recognized Class A carcinogen.

Health Canada reduced the radon action guideline fourfold in 2007 from 800 Bq/m³ to 200 Bq/m³. Health Canada advocates testing for all homes, and mitigation if above 200 Bq/m³.

The Science is Indisputable



RISK DWELLINGS:

Homes

Schools

Daycares

Workplaces

AFFECTED SECTORS:

Building

Trades

Home Buyers

Real Estate

Radon is present in all indoor air environments. It affects the air quality of homes, schools and workplaces. Air quality is a concern to new home builders, home inspectors and potential home buyers. Employers must ensure their workers are not exposed to harmful substances in the workplace.

Who is At Risk



**RESULTS OF HEALTH CANADA'S 2012
CROSS-CANADA SURVEY OF RADON
CONCENTRATIONS IN HOMES**

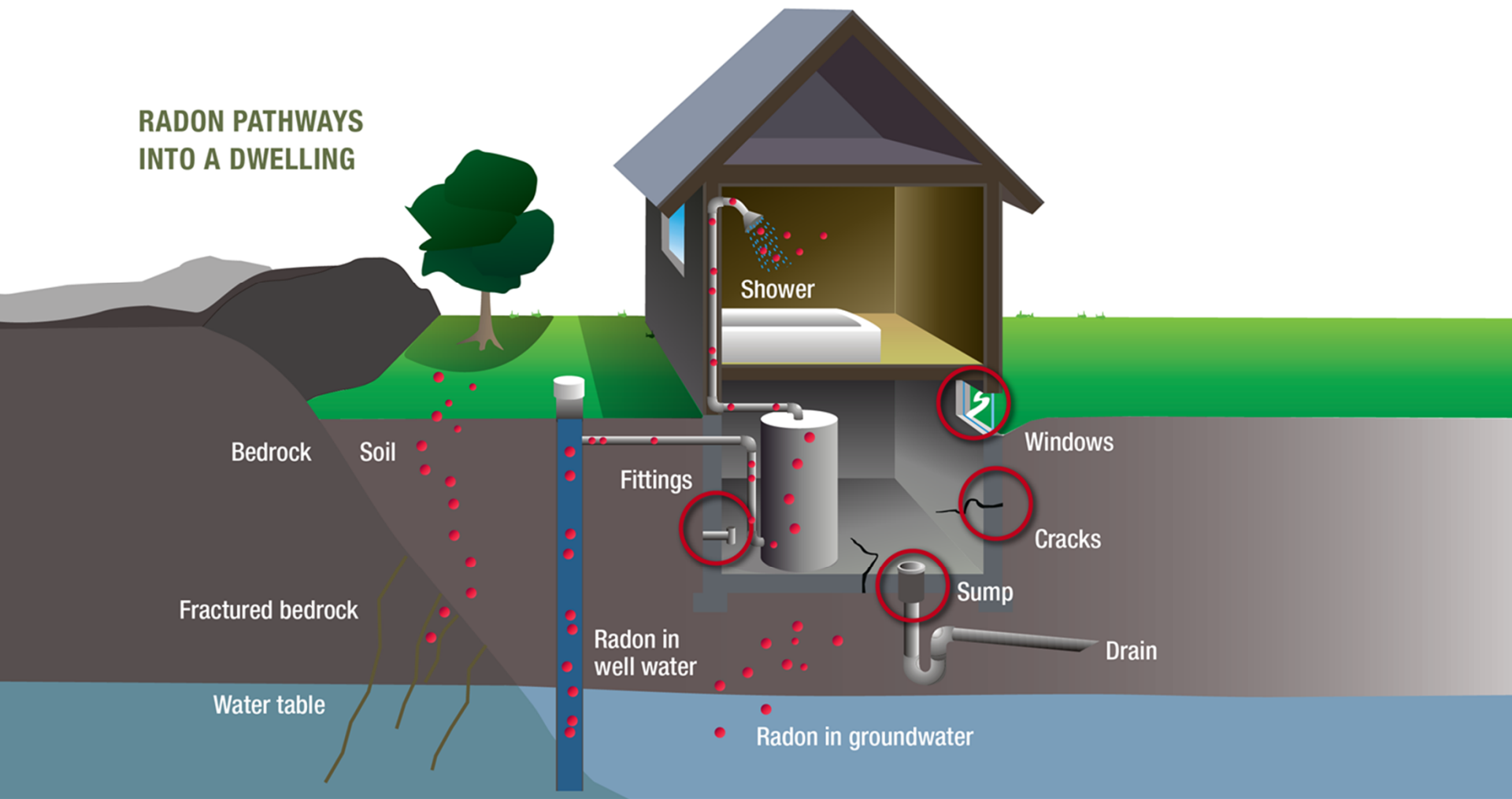
**Revised risk estimate: 16% lung
cancer deaths attributable to
indoor radon exposure**



Response in Canada to radon prevention is increasing within community health units, lung associations, the Centre for Disease Control, and Health Canada. Health Canada conducted a cross-Canada survey of radon levels in homes and public buildings in 2010. Testing pilot projects are underway in BC's radon hotspots.



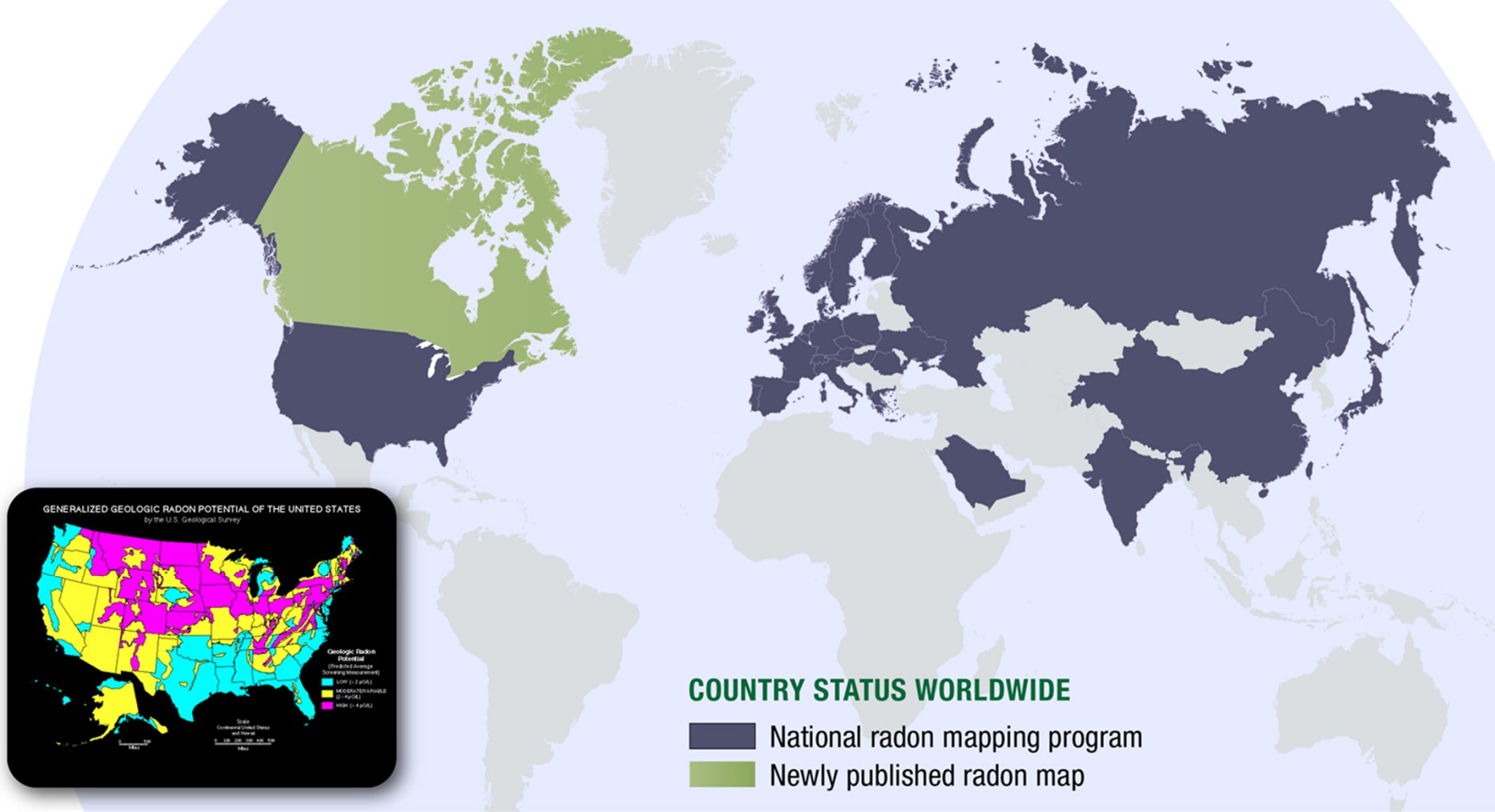
RADON PATHWAYS INTO A DWELLING



The 2010 National Building Code includes measures that mitigate the risk from radon exposure. The 2012 BC Building Code has new requirements for radon-resistant new construction.

New developments protecting Canadians: Bill 11 Ontario Radon Awareness & Prevention Act, and Tarion's New Home Warranty.

Building Codes and New Policies



For the past 20 years, the United States has led the way in radon public awareness and education. In 1993 the USGS published the “Generalized Geologic Radon Potential Map of the United States,” which has since served as a model for other countries.

Radon Maps Around the World



**PATCHWORK OF RESULTS FROM
RADON MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS
ACROSS EUROPE**

USES OF RADON MAPS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

**PLAN RADON
CAMPAIGNS**

Belgium, Finland, Germany,
Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain,
Sweden, United Kingdom

**DISTRIBUTE RADON
DETECTORS**

Czech Republic,
Finland,
United Kingdom

**RADON PREVENTION
NEW BUILDINGS**

Finland, France,
Ireland, Italy, Spain,
Sweden, United Kingdom

**INCREASE PUBLIC
AWARENESS**

Denmark, Finland,
France, Ireland, Italy,
United Kingdom

Natural hazards like radon have a strong spatio-temporal component. Because of this, maps play a decisive role in risk communication.

The European Union uses radon map prediction to plan their campaigns, distribute detectors, prevent radon in new dwellings, and increase public awareness.

Maps for Risk Communication



In 2010 our team of geoscience professionals developed the first geologic Radon Potential Map of Canada with the objective of identifying and prioritizing hazard zones.

This geographical picture of radon risk is now a tool to drive major testing and mitigation activities across the country.

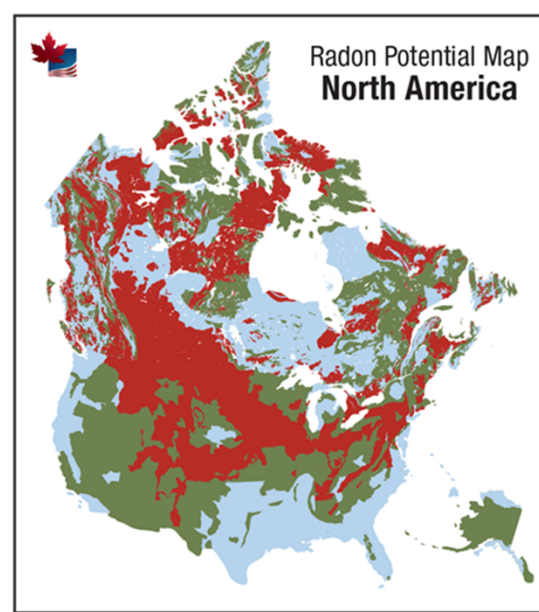
A Radon Potential Map for Canada



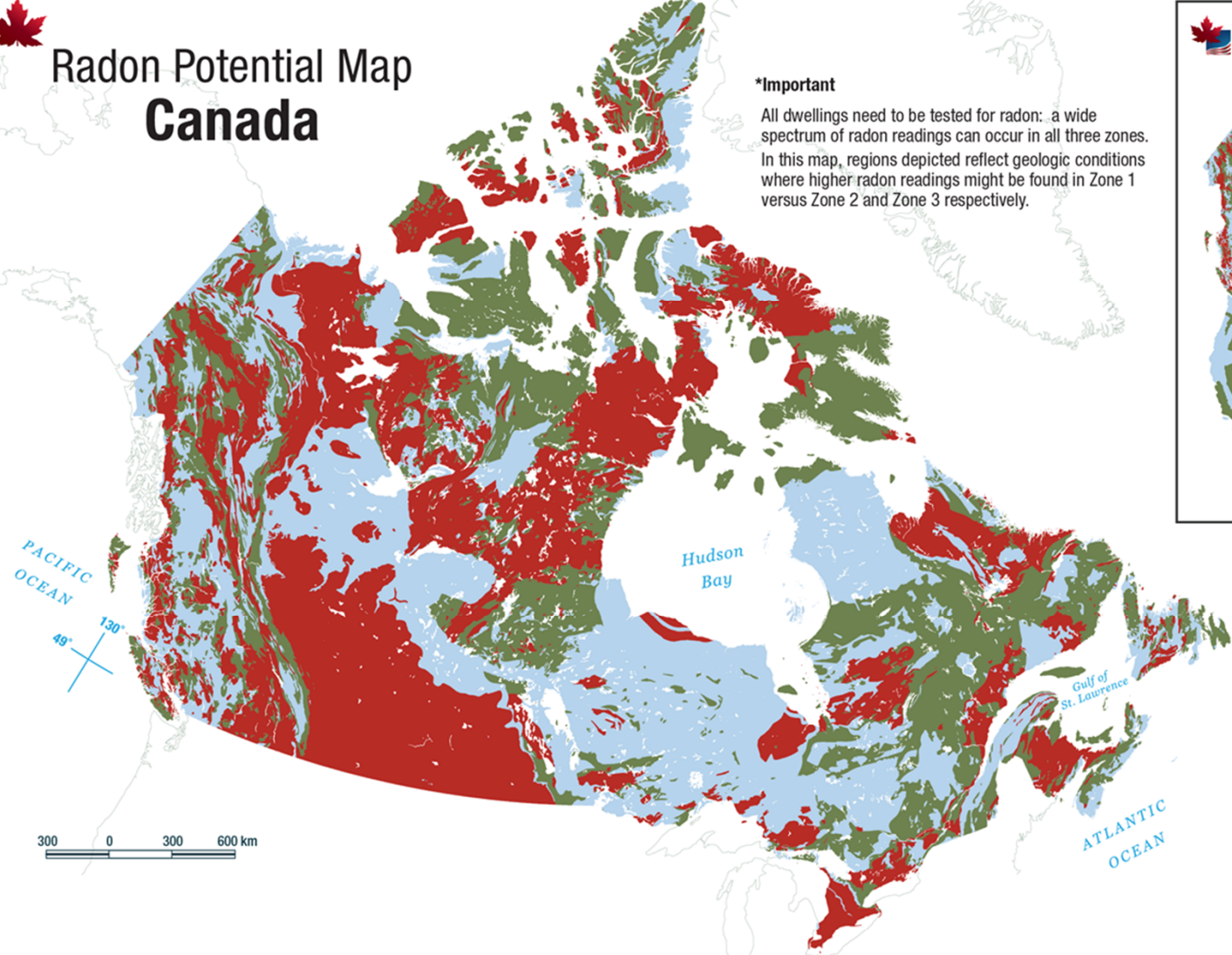
Radon Potential Map Canada

***Important**

All dwellings need to be tested for radon: a wide spectrum of radon readings can occur in all three zones. In this map, regions depicted reflect geologic conditions where higher radon readings might be found in Zone 1 versus Zone 2 and Zone 3 respectively.



Radon Potential Map
North America



Relative Radon Hazard*

- Zone 1 – High
- Zone 2 – Elevated
- Zone 3 – Guarded

Approximately 80% of the most densely populated areas of Canada are in elevated or high radon potential zones.

The Canada map matched seamlessly with the US Geological Survey map, providing a North American picture.

Mapping Methodology

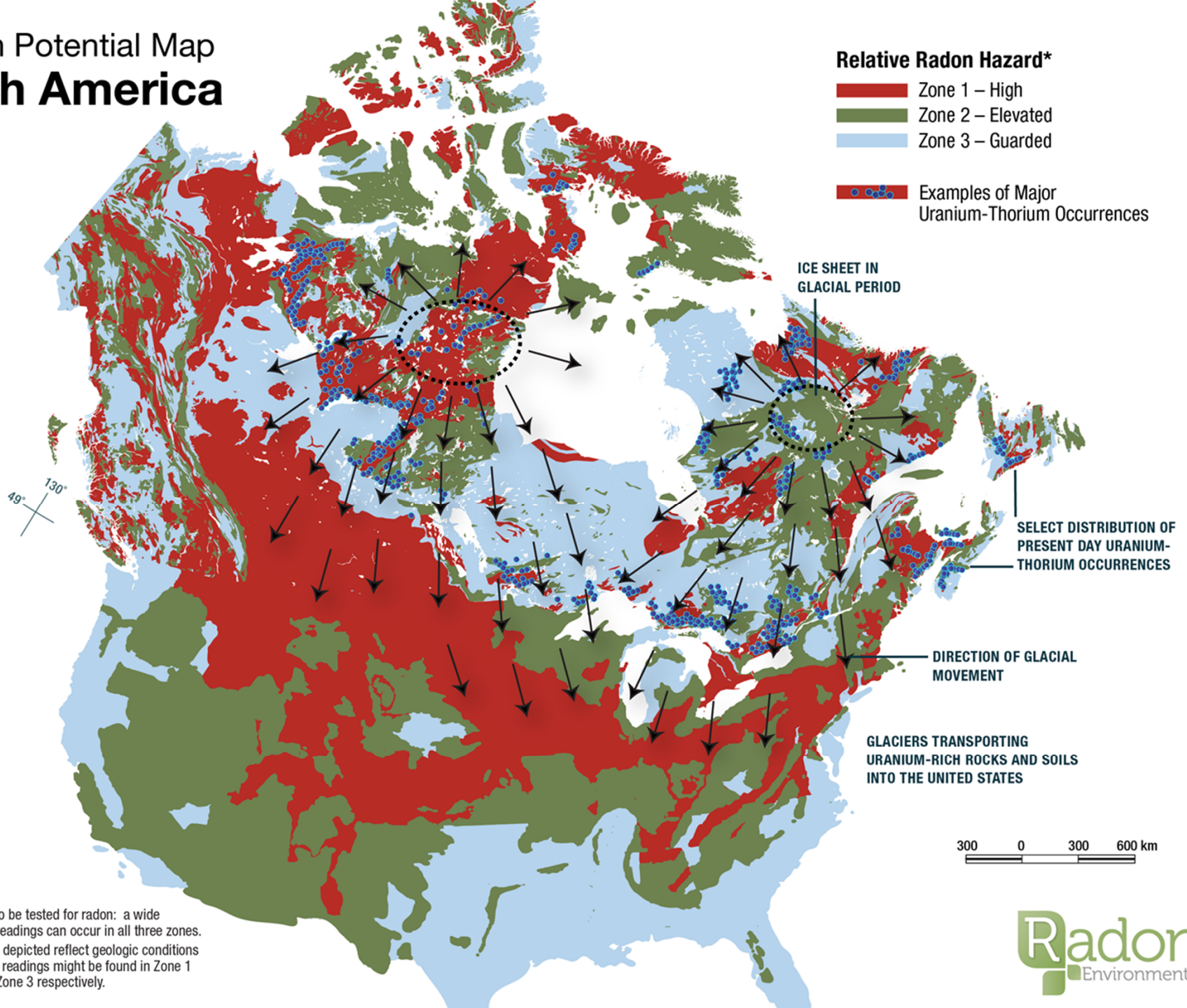


Radon Potential Map North America

Relative Radon Hazard*

- Zone 1 – High
- Zone 2 – Elevated
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- Examples of Major Uranium-Thorium Occurrences



*Important

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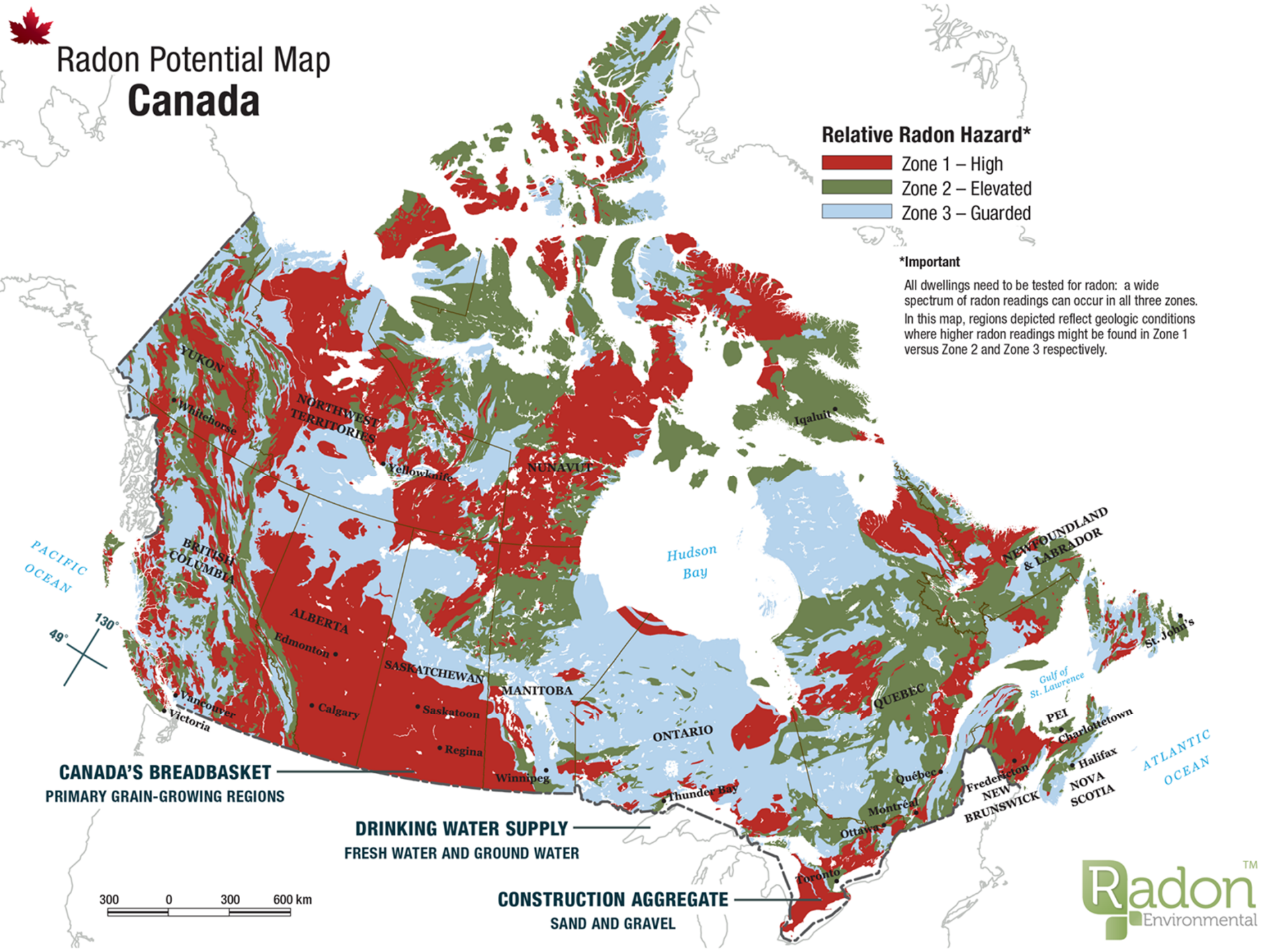
Radon Potential Map Canada

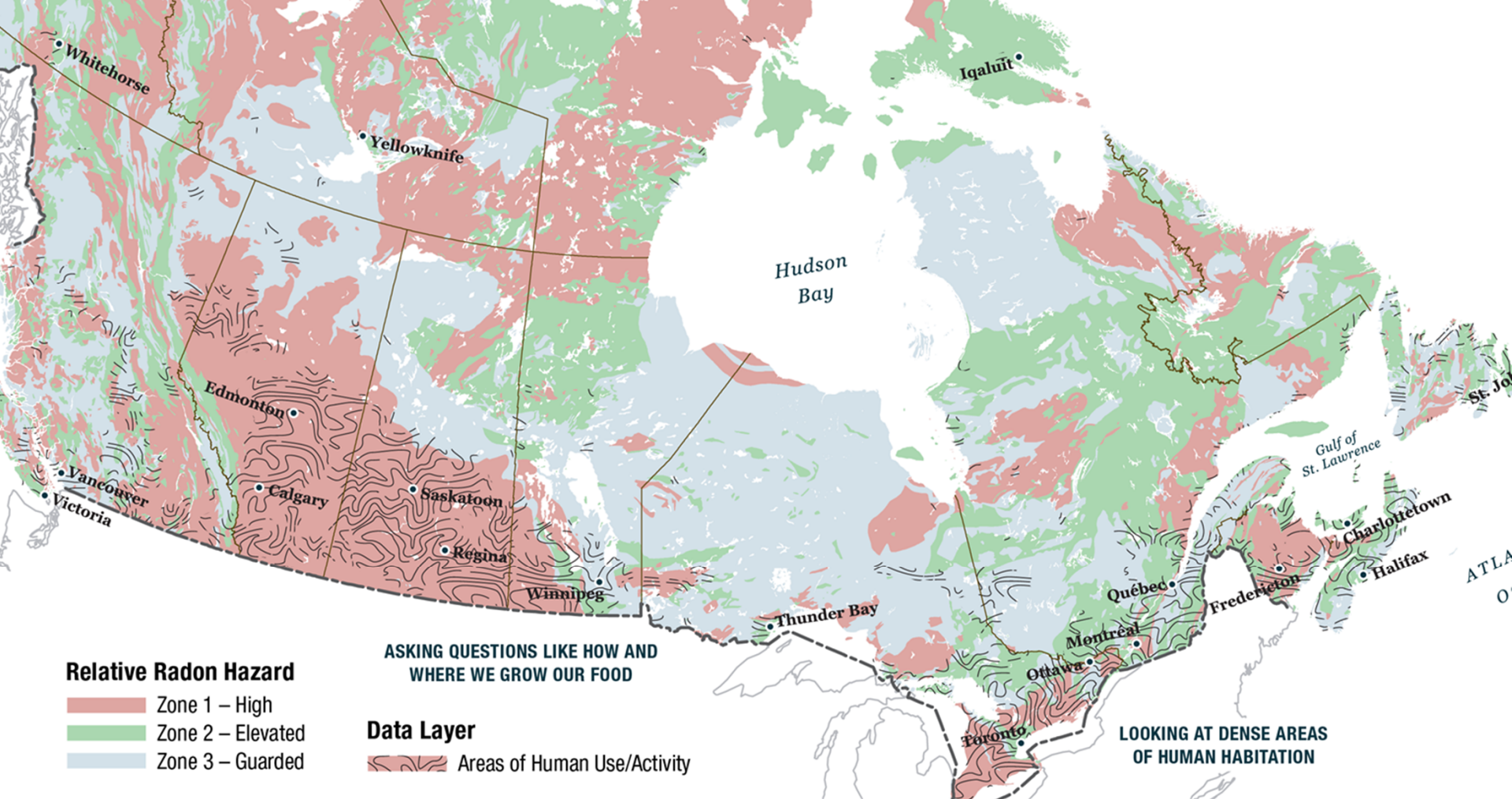
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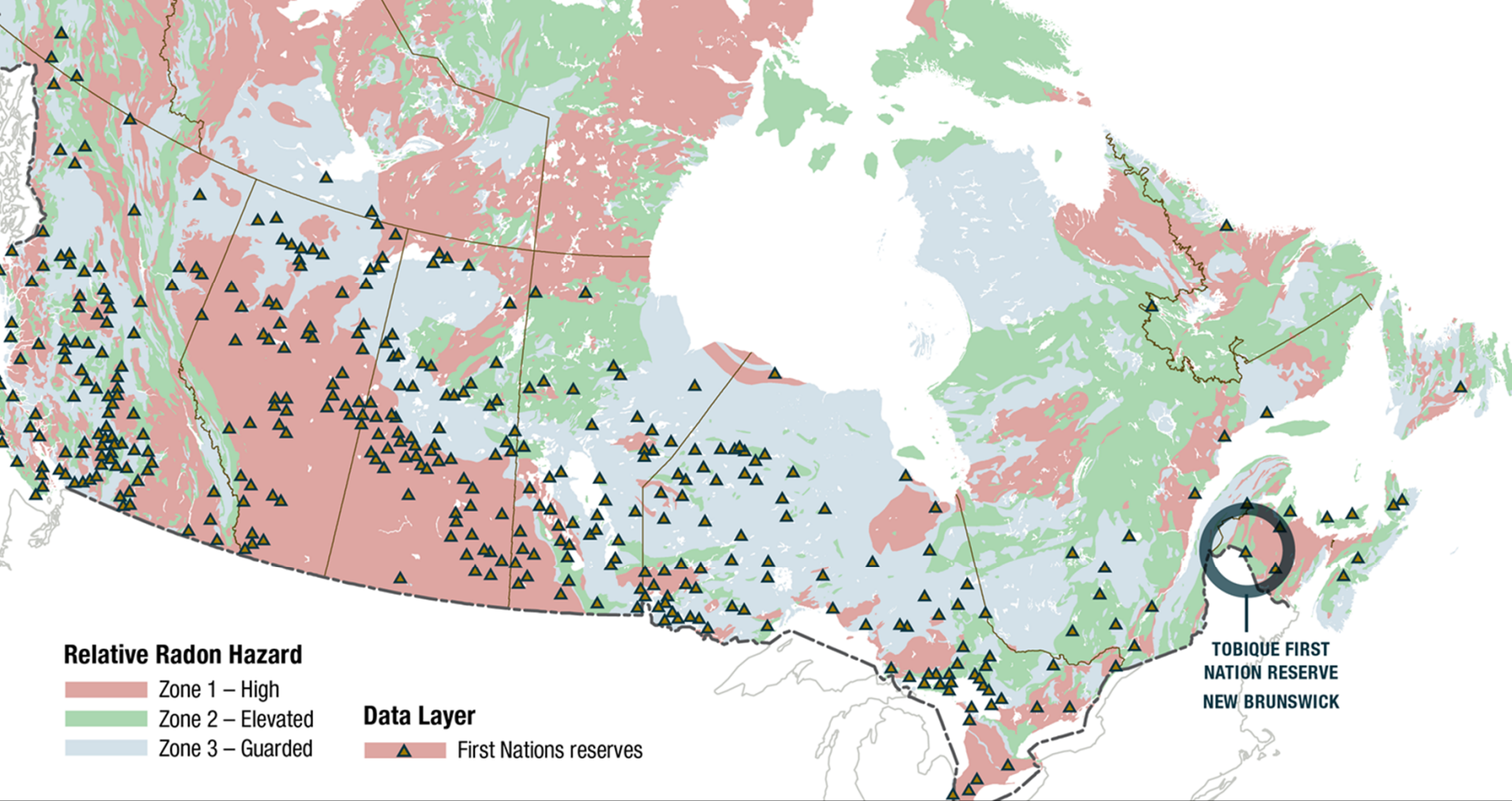




With the map it's possible to examine relationships between potential radon hazards and populations – a factor in urban and rural planning.

Is the chosen site for a seniors community, public school or hospital in a high radon hazard zone? The map can be a tool for responsible decision-making.

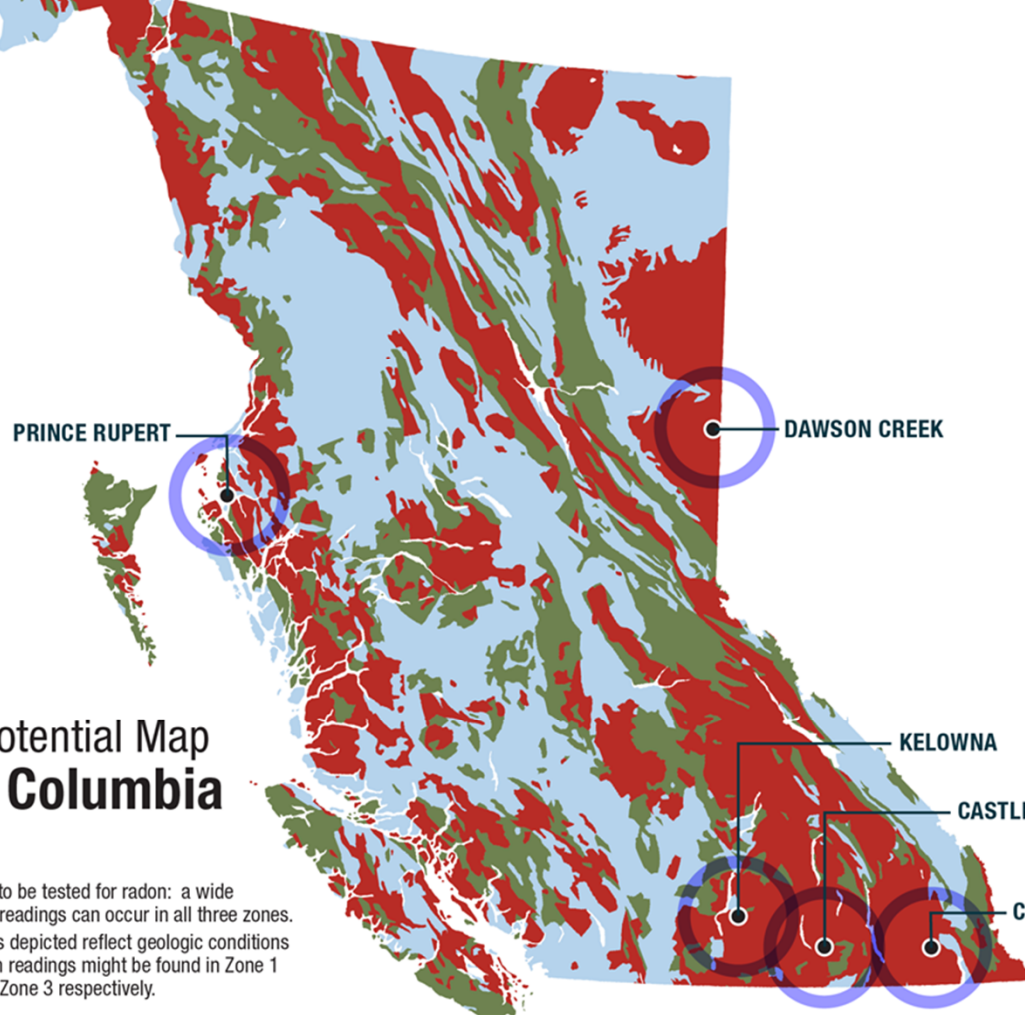
Relationships: Assessing Impact



Many First Nations reserves in Canada are located in high radon hazard zones. These communities need to know to test for radon and mitigate their risk - how will governments act?

The Tobique First Nation in NB is a typical example, where a large percentage of homes and buildings were found to have high radon levels.

Relationships: Assessing Impact



RISK COMMUNICATION EXAMPLES WITH THE RADON POTENTIAL MAPS OF CANADA AND BC

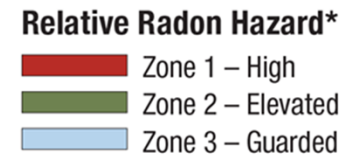
- Radonaware, a website operated by the BC Lung Association
- Canadian Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists
- Media newstories on radon (Global News BC)
- Independent radon measurement and mitigation operations across Canada



Radon Potential Map British Columbia

*Important

All dwellings need to be tested for radon: a wide spectrum of radon readings can occur in all three zones. In this map, regions depicted reflect geologic conditions where higher radon readings might be found in Zone 1 versus Zone 2 and Zone 3 respectively.



Responding to the demand from local health authorities, provincial maps were created. Municipal mapping programs are underway for planners in the Ottawa and Sudbury regions.

The Radon Potential Map of Canada and its regional maps are being used by various organizations in education and awareness campaigns.

Regional Radon Mapping



EVERY DWELLING HAS THE POTENTIAL TO HOST HIGH LEVELS OF RADON.

EVERY CANADIAN NEEDS TO TEST

Granite countertops

Building materials

Water supply

Ground beneath dwelling

Points of radon entry

Optimal testing location

The only way to determine the radon level in an indoor space is to test. From the geologic maps, certain regions can be seen to have a higher potential for radon than others. However, indoor radon levels are influenced by additional variables, such as building construction and materials, air exchange, radon in water, and seasonal conditions.

Necessary Action: Testing

**ALPHA TRACK TECHNOLOGY
IS THE MOST COMMON TYPE
OF RADON MONITORING
WORLDWIDE***



*WHO Report: Survey on Radon
Guidelines, Programmes and Activities.

Some one-time-test radon detectors in Canada are approved by the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) and Health Canada.

Within both the consumer and professional categories, the Radtrak alpha track radon gas monitor by Landauer is an approved, low-cost, accurate device.

Measurement Instruments

**VICTORIA™ RADON ALARM, THE FIRST
TRUE RADON DETECTOR IN CANADA**



**PRO SERIES 3 MEASURES SHORT
AND LONG TERM AVERAGES**



Measurement devices also include continuous radon monitors and true radon detectors, which are analogous to carbon monoxide detectors.

The first true radon detector in Canada is the Victoria™ radon alarm, which, like the Radtrak alpha track monitor, is economical, reliable and simple to use.

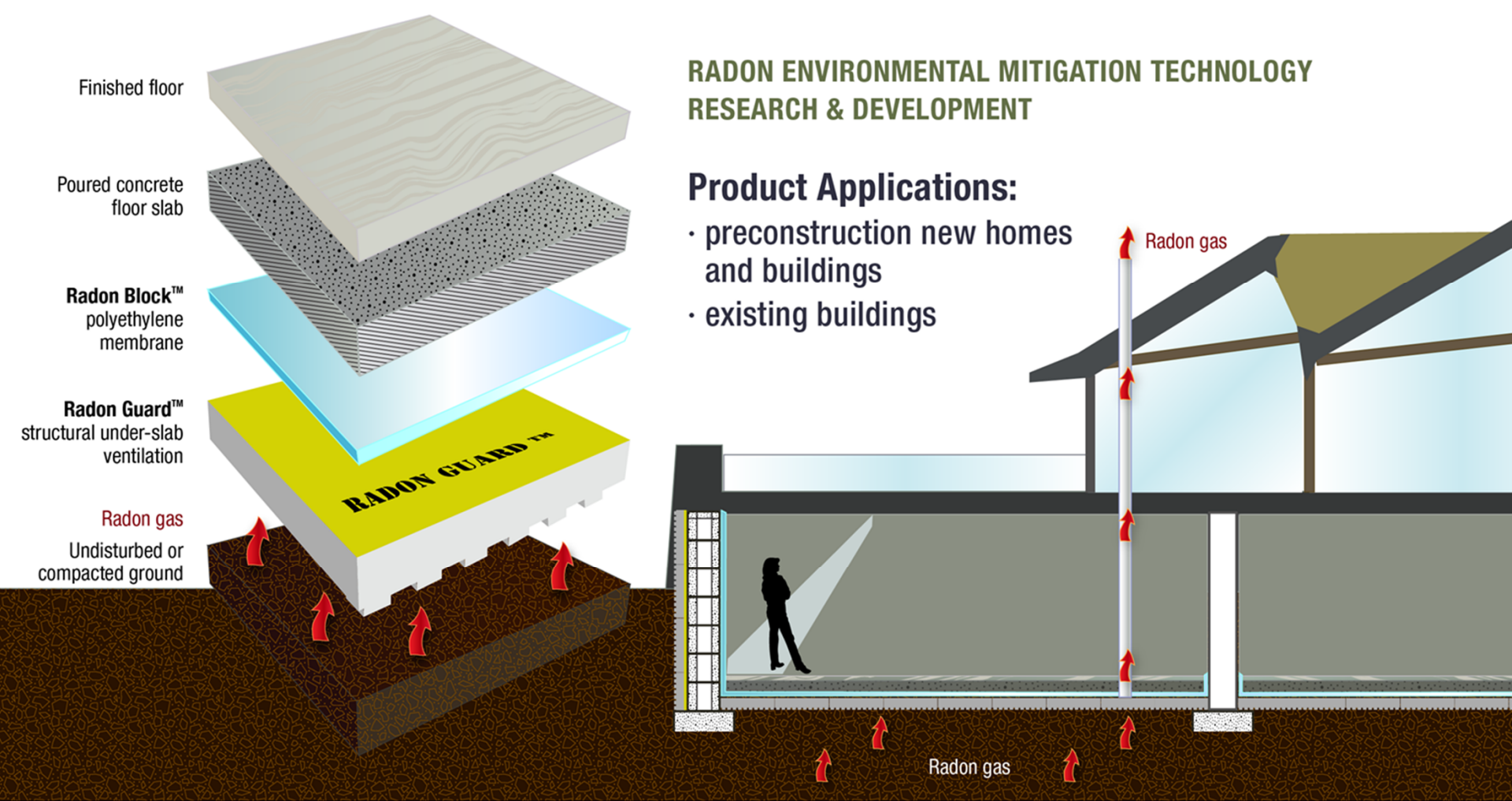
Continuous monitors like the Pro Series 3 are popular with homeowners.

Measurement Instruments

RADON ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Product Applications:

- preconstruction new homes and buildings
- existing buildings



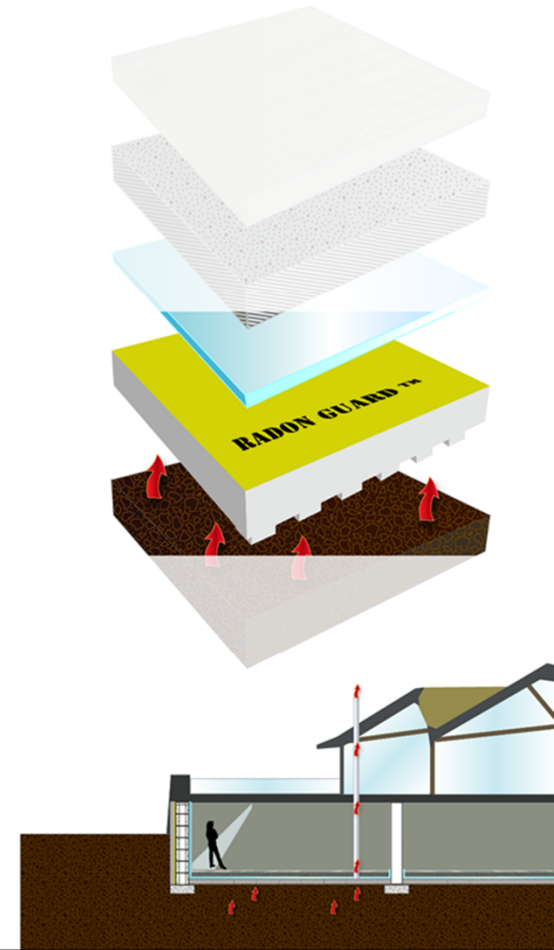
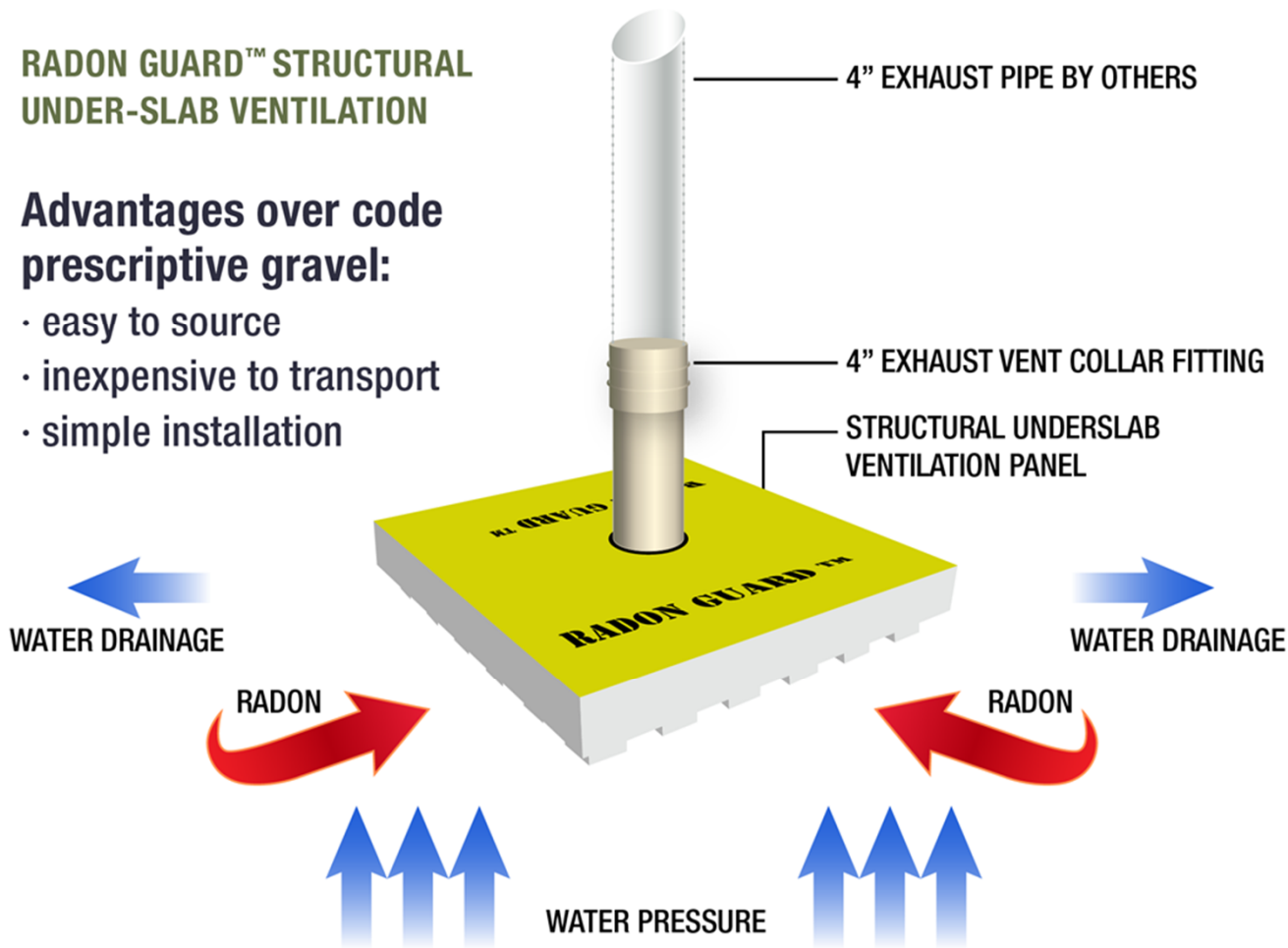
Radon Environmental is developing new mitigation technologies to improve methods of keeping poisonous gases away from indoor spaces. Radon Guard™ combined with the polyethylene membrane Radon Block™ provides a level of protection far superior to existing standard building materials.

Mitigation Technologies

RADON GUARD™ STRUCTURAL UNDER-SLAB VENTILATION

Advantages over code prescriptive gravel:

- easy to source
- inexpensive to transport
- simple installation



Radon Guard™ is a new, patent pending, structural under-slab ventilation panel system that allows for soil gas removal, insulation, and a capillary break between the ground and air barrier system.

The CCMC has now certified Radon Guard™ to be National Building Code 2010 compliant as a replacement/alternative for the code prescriptive solution.

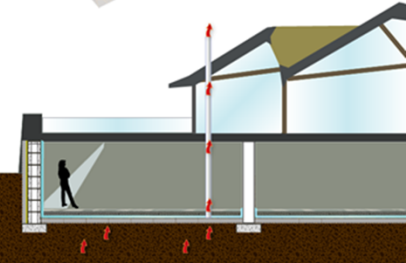
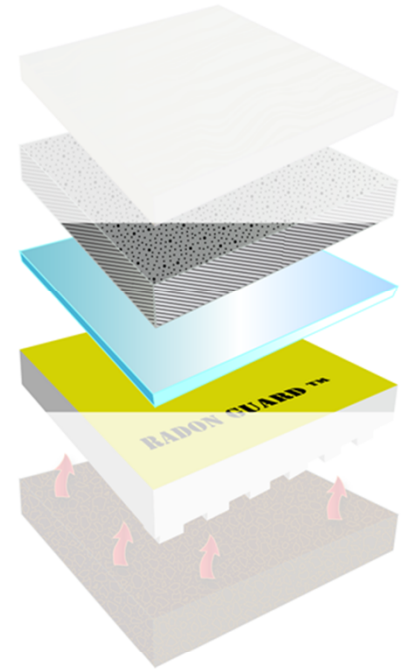
Mitigation Technologies: Radon Guard™

Radon
Environmental™



RADONBLOCK™
HIGH PERFORMANCE RADON
BLOCKING BARRIER MEMBRANE

- 100x less permeable than typical polyethylene vapor retarders
- exceeds ASTM E-1745 class A, B, C requirements
- available in 20 mil (class A) thickness



RadonBlock™ is a highly resilient, high performance underslab/vertical wall barrier specifically designed to block radon, and other toxic soil gases like methane, from migrating through the ground and concrete slab.

It is more than 100 times less permeable than typical 4mm polyethylene vapor retarders against radon, methane, and other harmful VOCs.

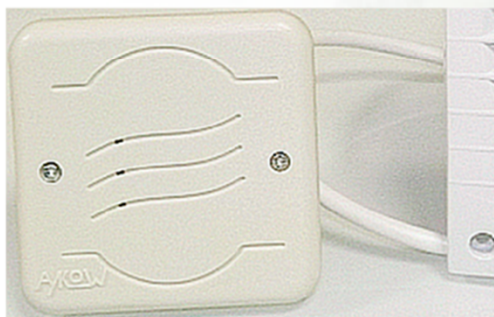
Mitigation Technologies: RadonBlock™



Radon
Environmental™

RADOSTAT™ RESPONSIVE MITIGATION DRIVING DEVICE

- pilots any active ventilation system for radon elimination
- real-time protection from radon peaks using nuclear sensor technology
- discreet design, integrated into existing ventilation system



Reducing indoor radon is commonly done in North America by a system called sub-slab depressurization, which is either an active or passive system to exhaust soil gas outside the building.

A less invasive method is now available with the Radostat™ that effectively dilutes radon concentrations by piloting a building's existing ventilation system.

Mitigation Strategies



Radon is naturally-occurring and present in every indoor environment to some degree.

The hazard comes as a result of the way we build and maintain our homes, work and learning spaces. Exposure and the risk of lung cancer is totally preventable.

A Preventable Risk