



ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 25, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

New Brunswick's schools have had asbestos management plans in place since 2004. Repairs and removal of the asbestos were completed in all schools across the province by 2005. An annual inspection and maintenance program was put into place for all schools in 2006.

Earlier this month, our district discovered that yearly inspections were not happening in your school. As soon as I learned of this, I immediately contacted the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, who arranged for immediate inspections under direct orders from the Minister.

The Department provided two professional engineers trained in asbestos management to inspect the eight schools identified in 2004 to have asbestos. **I want to assure you that the inspections showed that all areas of all the inspected schools that are accessible to students have no health and safety concerns, and your child has not been exposed to asbestos at the school.**

The inspectors found minor repairs to bring Bathurst High School up to the standards in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. There is no immediate health and safety risk involved in these areas and repairs will be completed as soon as possible. However, asbestos is present in a locked and restricted maintenance room. Air quality testing will begin immediately in the maintenance room, and the asbestos will be removed as soon as possible. Please rest assured that students have no access to this room, and therefore, we have identified no risk to their health and safety.

Health Canada says that asbestos fibers enclosed or tightly bound in a product, such as a wall covering or floor covering, pose no significant risk to health. No exposed asbestos was found in classrooms, halls or other areas students use in the schools.

Our district is now working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure an asbestos management plan is in place for all schools in Anglophone School District-North. We will share the plans and the results of the annual inspections with the school principals from now on.

If you have any questions, please contact your school's principal or the school district office at 1-800-661-6667.

Sincerely,

Beth Stymiest
Superintendent

BS/bd
Ref#16021