

OHS Case ID: 8914FPRWGSJ

Field Visit no: 8914FPRWGSJ-8914-FV001

Visit Date: 2026-AUG-21

Field Visit Type: INITIAL

Workplace Identification: LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL BLDG
955 OLIVER ROAD, THUNDER BAY, ON CA P7B 5E1

Notice ID:

Telephone:
(807) 345-2121

JHSC Status:
Active

Work Force #:
2000

Completed %:

Persons Contacted: Hugh Briggs - Director Physical Plant, Brenda Huska - HR Officer Safety, Adam White - Facility Asset Manager/JHSC Mgmt Rep, Ian McIntosh - JHSC Worker Rep

Visit Purpose: to respond to a complaint made to the MLTSD Contact Centre

Visit Location: Agora, Centennial Building

Visit Summary: no orders issued - see narrative

Detailed Narrative:

Attended the workplace with Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills (MLTSD) Hygienist Ina Chomyshyn

The reason for this visit is to respond to a complaint made to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development. The complaint includes the following: there is no designated substance survey for this building and that the survey has not been shared with the workers, that the JHSC is not functioning, workers through the JHSC have repeatedly requested air quality testing that has taken place in the workspace and have not received the results of the testing.

The following was observed/discussed/provided:

The workplace is in the process of having the external roof repaired above the Upper Lecture Theatre. Workers on the roof access the roof above the Lecture Theatre by the roof area above UC Deans Row. Discussion was had regarding the project. The employer confirmed that there was a communication bulletin emailed to all staff regarding the project and a Designated Substance Survey was performed prior to this project and the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) worker rep confirmed that it was made available to the JHSC. Furthermore, when annual testing is to be done a communication bulletin is sent to all staff. The workplace confirmed that a Designated Substance Survey (Hazardous Materials Information System, HMIS) of the entire campus was updated by an external contractor and shared with the JHSC this year.

The worker member of the JHSC confirmed that air testing, results of air testing and the Designated Substance Survey have been shared with the JHSC.

Discussion was had regarding the Internal Responsibility System (IRS). The workplace stated that workers are to report concerns to their supervisors or JHSC members. When a concern/question is brought to a JHSC member, the members can seek clarification/guidance/information from the HR/Safety and report back to workers. For issues that need immediate attention, any worker can report through the work order system. The workplace confirmed that JHSC information including members list and meeting minutes are available to all workers in the workplace online.

The following are excerpts from the Occupational Health and safety Act:

Duties of supervisor

a supervisor shall,

(a) advise a worker of the existence of any potential or actual danger to the health or safety of the worker of which the supervisor is aware;

Duties of workers

28 (1) A worker shall,

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>Brenda Huska</u>	Ann-Marie Rybar O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name <u>Ian McIntosh</u>
Title <u>HR Officer - Safety</u>	222-435 James St. S, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 HSThunderBayDistrict1@ontario.ca Tel: (807) 630-7367 Fax: (807) 475-1646	Title <u>JHS worker rep</u>
Signature 	Signature 	Signature 

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.oltb.gov.on.ca/> for more information.

The Government of Ontario wants to hear from you. You can provide feedback on this visit at 1-888-745-8888

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- (a) work in compliance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations;
- (b) use or wear the equipment, protective devices or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn;
- (c) report to his or her employer or supervisor the absence of or defect in any equipment or protective device of which the worker is aware and which may endanger himself, herself or another worker; and
- (d) report to his or her employer or supervisor any contravention of this Act or the regulations or the existence of any hazard of which he or she knows.

Discussion was had regarding asbestos training in the workplace. The workplace stated workers have different levels of training depending on their involvement with asbestos, and there is a procedure in place to report suspected asbestos, which includes not to touch the substance, and to arrange for safe cleaning/removal.

Management stated that the JHSC shared results with Senior Executive and has also previously shared results with workers who have inquired about testing in the workplace and will continue to do so going forward.

***** The following comments are provided by Ina Chomyshyn, Occupational Hygiene Consultant, Northern Region | ina.chomyshyn@ontario.ca | 807 633 8033 *****

I visited this workplace with MLTSD inspector Rybar. We walked through the subject area (Upper Lecture Theatre hallway and Deans Row) then met with the workplace management and worker representatives listed above.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ COMMENTS

The current Upper Lecture Theatre roof replacement project does not include asbestos abatement. The project tender documents included a designated substance list. Material transport and construction work activities have caused noise and banging above the adjacent Dean's Row roof. The Deans Row area still contains friable asbestos containing material (ACM) in the ceiling space, on the lower surface of the roof decking. The fibreglass insulation located on the bottom of the ceiling space, on top of the metal slat suspended ceiling, is considered to be potentially contaminated with asbestos from friable ACM that may have fallen. The ceiling space is a return air plenum. As such the space is expected to have negative air pressure relative to the occupied room areas. This means that the direction of air movement is into the ceiling space, not out of it, as long as the building ventilation system is running.

The employer has taken reasonable measures to protect building occupants from exposure to asbestos, including the following:

-One suite in Deans Row is sealed off with plastic tarp and the employer told us that the surfaces in these rooms are being cleaned by an asbestos abatement contractor, subsequent to material having fallen through a hole in the metal slat ceiling, onto a surface in the room. The hole was repaired.

-A consultant has been retained to complete periodic air sampling to measure indoor airborne asbestos fibre concentrations in the area of concern as well as in reference locations indoors and outdoors. This is in addition to annual sampling that is done in the campus buildings that contain ACM. I will review these results.

-The employer has kept the supervisors in Deans Row, the Human Resource safety officers and the Joint Health and Safety committee informed about the project activities, the incident of material falling, the clean up and the air sampling results.

-The employer has scheduled for next week an information session on the project work and the measures taken to protect workers from

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Name _____	Ann-Marie Rybar O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name _____
Title _____	222-435 James St. S, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 HSThunderBayDistrict@ontario.ca Tel: (807) 630-7367 Fax: (807) 475-1646	Title _____
Signature <i>BM</i>	Signature <i>AMR</i>	Signature <i>IM</i>

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asbestos exposure. We understand that supervisors and workers in Deans Row are to be invited.

The employer agreed to provide to us by email ina.chomyshyn@ontario.ca and Ann-Marie.Rybar3@ontario.ca the following documents:

- 1- last two rounds of routine annual sampling results for airborne asbestos fibres (for example 2024 and 2025)
- 2- the reports containing air sampling results for the three rounds of sampling for airborne asbestos fibres done during project
- 3- the last update of the building asbestos management program report - sections relevant to the Upper Lecture Theater , UC and Dean's Row
- 4- employee communication bulletins as sent to date, dealing with this project

I will review the documents and follow up as appropriate.

*END OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE COMMENTS *****

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