

Background

*École William McDonald School
March 14, 2019*



As a result of the discovery of mould in a classroom at École William McDonald School (EWMS), a thorough inspection was undertaken. Mould was discovered in several areas across the school and air testing and analysis of the contaminated areas was conducted. There are two student/staff traffic areas with contamination; however, one is in a vacant classroom and the other is in a windowsill in the canteen away from the tables.

Many of the commercial and residential buildings in the North built prior to 1990 have hazardous materials present; this was a part of the building standards of the time. All current practices for renovations, repairs or demolition of older buildings involve hazardous materials management and remediation plans, as this is a recognized issue.

As with any renovation, retrofit, or repair, the highest industry standards are employed for remediation and abatement. YK1 hired a contractor to contain the areas over the weekend of March 1-3, and was initially planning the remediation for the March break to ensure no disruption to student activities. However, advice from contractors is to postpone the remediation to the summer because it is not clear if the full remediation work could be done in a two week period.

While YK1 was addressing the immediate contamination of the mould, ECE was working on options to secure funding to undertake repairs on the roof. The leaking roof is the source of the mould and, without fixing this issue, the mould would reappear. ECE has now secured funding for roof repairs and, in light of the advice from contractors to wait to do remediation, the remediation work and the roof repair work will now proceed at the same time over the summer break.

All work will be conducted with a Safe Work Plan under the supervision of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSSC) the GNWT, air quality and remediation specialists and a contractor familiar with industry, containment and remediation practices.

For more information, please contact Superintendent Metro Huculak at 766-5050, or metro.huculak@yk1.nt.ca.