

Operations Division Occupational Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

OHS Case ID: **04633QDSL660**
 Field Visit no: **04633QDTQ662** Visit Date: **2021-FEB-24** Field Visit Type: **CONTINUATION**

Workplace Identification: **ST RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL** Notice ID:
3 GADE DRIVE, NORTH YORK, ON, CANADA M3M 2K2

Telephone: **(416) 393-5127** JHSC Status: **Active** Work Force #: **40** Completed %:

Persons Contacted: **SHAWNA CAMPBELL - SUPERINTENDENT, MARTA RADIC - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER, RANIA DIFELICE - PRINCIPAL, ROBERT MACDONALD - TECT UNION REPRESENTATIVE, VAL DIGREGORIO - LOCAL 1355 UNION REPRESENTATIVE, REFUSING WORKERS**
 Visit Purpose: **TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT AND ITS ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS.**
 Visit Location: **FOLLOW UP - DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.**
 Visit Summary: **NO ORDERS ISSUED. ACCOMPANIED BY MLTSD INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST DAVID WINTER.**

Detailed Narrative:

This field visit was performed to investigate concerns associated with air quality within the workplace. The nature of the concerns was a result of a recent indoor air quality study performed between November 12 and December 12, 2020. Workplace parties were concerned with carbon dioxide levels, ventilation issues and the potential for these issues to contribute to the spread of COVID-19. The workplace is not served by a central mechanical ventilation system.

A previous field visit (MLTSD field visit #04633QDSL661) was conducted on February 23, 2021 by MLTSD Inspector A. Rondinone. Inspector A. Rondinone was accompanied by MLTSD Industrial Hygienist David Winter.

**INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST'S COMMENTS:

The air quality study involved performing continuous monitoring for carbon dioxide, temperature and relative humidity. Results of the study indicated carbon dioxide concentrations were found to be above 1200 parts per million (ppm) in several locations tested during certain periods. For example, Room 202 had carbon dioxide concentrations exceeding 1200ppm on various occasions over the 1-month sampling period. Generally, carbon dioxide concentrations vary throughout the day with peaks generally observed in the late afternoon. It is not uncommon to observe spikes in concentrations; however, of greater concern would be sustained elevated levels for prolonged periods.

In Ontario, Regulation 833 – Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents indicates enforceable time-weighted average (TWA) and short-term exposure limit (STEL) values for airborne chemical agents. The 8-hour TWA concentration limit for carbon dioxide is currently 5000ppm, with a STEL of 30,000ppm. These concentrations represent the maximum allowable occupational exposure limits averaged over an 8-hour workday or 40-hour work week and the short-term exposure limit respectively. The concentrations of carbon dioxide measured during the recent air quality study were well below the TWA concentration.

Recipient Name _____ Title _____ Signature _____	Inspector Data Alexandra Rondinone OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER 5001 Yonge St. Rm 1600 North York ON M7A 0A3 MOLCOMPLIANCEIHSTORN@ONTARIO.CA Tel: (437) 688-5284 Fax: (647) 777-5014 Signature 	Worker Representative Name _____ Title _____ Signature _____
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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.olrb.gov.on.ca/english/homepage.htm> for more information.

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The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62.1-2013 – Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality recommends that concentrations of carbon dioxide should not exceed approximately 1100ppm or complaints related to indoor air quality will be more frequent. It should be noted that ASHRAE publishes Standards which are considered to be best practices.

The employer has implemented measures to improve ventilation within the workplace, including opening windows to the extent possible within each classroom, keeping classroom doors open, and operating HEPA-filtered air filtration units within the classrooms to filter particulates and aerosols. It should be noted that a second HEPA-filtered air purifier was deployed in Room 202.

The employer is encouraged to continue discussions with their Joint Health and Safety Committee and environmental consultant to investigate additional improvements where possible. Organizations such as ASHRAE have also published guidance material on the reopening of schools, and strategies outlined in this guidance material may assist in optimizing control measures on a case-by-case basis to the extent possible.

Suggested improvements discussed at the time of our field visit which could be investigated included adding window fan units to classrooms with no ventilation capabilities to force fresh air into the classrooms as well as exhausting air from the classrooms where possible when exterior weather conditions permit, confirming that existing exhaust fan units are operational where present, ensuring that windows are functional, positioning portable air filtration devices in the most optimal locations and maintaining these devices through a preventative maintenance program.

It should be noted that control measures for COVID-19 should consider a variety of factors and ventilation is only one of these factors. The workplace has implemented comprehensive COVID-19 control measures, including, universal masking, physical distancing, strategic barriers, maintaining cohorts, active screening and enhanced cleaning measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, details associated with the workplace COVID-19 protocols are outlined in a separate field visit report (ID#04633QDSL661).

The employer had also retained the services of an environmental consultant to perform a limited Mould Investigation in September 2019. Workplace parties indicated that the recommendations outlined in the report have been implemented. It was reported by workplace parties that no recent major renovation activities have been undertaken in the workplace.

**END OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST'S COMMENTS.

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name _____	Alexandra Rondinone OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name _____
Title _____	5001 Yonge St. Rm 1600 North York ON M7A 0A3 MOLCOMPLIANCEIHSTORN@ONTARIO.CA	Title _____
Signature _____	Tel: (437) 688-5284 Fax: (647) 777-5014 	Signature _____

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Documents obtained via email:
-Preliminary Investigation for Mould. 11 pages. Dated September 30, 2019.

No further action is required by the MLTSD at this time.

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