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Objet : Stewart MacAdam bape brief
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I want to bring to the Commission's attention serious failures that I have witnessed, experienced and documented on the part of the CNESST and other government agencies to protect workers, the public and the environment from asbestos harm. In my view, it is essential that these failings be addressed and rectified before any major projects go forward involving asbestos and asbestos mining wastes. The CNESST has told the Commission and has told the Quebec population that its policy is one of "zero exposure to asbestos" and that it takes and enforces this policy seriously in order to protect workers from harm. The reality, however, in my experience, is completely different. When myself and others reported to the CNESST an illegal and dangerous situation at a work site, where major amounts of broken and deteriorated asbestos-containing materials were being handled by workers with none of the legally required protections in place, the CNESST failed to take effective action and instead demonstrated a wanton disregard and inexcusable negligence, thereby permitting workers and others to experience serious, dangerous, illegal asbestos exposure.

Illegal removal of asbestos containing materials from two buildings.
The Crane building 3800 St Patrick
The Aberton building 3700 St Patrick

Causing building occupants to unknowingly be potentially exposed to airborne asbestos fibres.

Reason for brief: The following government agencies were contacted and notified of the situation and no action was taken while this illegal work was going on. These agencies include CNESST, CCQ, RBQ, , Développement durable Environment et lutte contre les Changements Climatiques, and Environment Canada. None have helped.

In addition, the FTQ was contacted concerning unionized workers doing work in the building and they did not act on this information. Finally, the Direction de santé publique de Montréal was contacted after the fact to see if it was pertinent to monitor the health of those who were possible exposed, to have some kind of register to confirm that workers and building occupants had been exposed during this illegal work. They were of the opinion that since the diseases caused by asbestos develop in the long term, so monitoring at this point would not be useful and that this type of register was not covered by occupational health and safety legislation.

Starting in late December 2014 major amounts of asbestos containing materials were removed from the Crane building. I and numerous others have witnessed this illegal removal. This has also been well documented.

From spring 2009 to spring 2015 major amount of asbestos containing materials were also illegally removed from the Aberton building. A number of people that participated in the removal from this building are willing to testify to this illegal removal.

The illegal removal of these asbestos containing material were orchestrated by the building owners.

Demands

- 1) A full investigation into the illegal removal of asbestos containing material from these two building and where they were disposed.
- 2) All individuals that were potentially exposed must be notified. This includes and is not limited to occupants and workers.
- 3) All potentially exposed individuals should have the ability to be monitored for signs of asbestos exposure.
- 4) To have the CNESST start an official registry of all potentially exposed individuals.
- 5) To set up a proper building registry.
- 6) The CNESST should create a multipartite task force to identify ways in improving how current laws and regulations concerning work with asbestos containing materials are adequately enforced.
- 7) An asbestos task force should be established to move quickly when notified of any asbestos issues.

8) The penalties issued when individuals are caught illegally removing asbestos that expose the unknowing public and workers must be increased to a level that is effective in deterring this behaviour.

Recently Julie Dufresne from the CBC Radio Canada show Enquete did a story that included part of our case. With time restraints we could only cover a limited amount of information. Please see the attached video link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD2YreqUguE&feature=youtu.be>

Regard,

Stewart MacAdam