

1996

# Quotes from School Maintenance and Safety Officers in Nova Scotia:

**"School environmental issues are an on-going everyday issue. There is too much information on school environmental incidents. It would take me days to put it together."**

This Board has developed a package to help identify Indoor Air Quality problems, and also a protocol for handling them.

*CB*

**"Do you know what you're asking? This would be a project that could keep the National Research Council or Health Canada busy for a year or two!"**

**"Nobody can tell me things are not affecting the children. There is an obvious cause and effect between people's health and chemical exposures in schools." There are well documented incidents that repeatedly proved this.**

This School Board has taken huge strides toward identifying and correcting potential environmental health hazards.

*Halifax County*

**"We have found that a healthy environment is a better environment for learning."**

There is a full time officer whose job it is to travel to all schools and identify potential environmental hazards and see to their correction before anyone is harmed. This includes both the longer known hazards such as asbestos and mould overgrowth, and the issues of environmental hypersensitivity.

Examples of their progressiveness:

- 75% of school carpeting has already been removed.
- Many of their schools have whiteboards instead of chalkboards. Policy - to replace all chalk boards.
- All maintenance and custodial staff are trained 30 to 40 hours before they go into their jobs.

*Pictou*

**"Look, there are schools in our district that from an environmental perspective, I believe should be plowed under. Build new ones. That's the only economical way."**

*Halifax*