

THE HALIFAX DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Indoor Air Quality Assessment

PREPARED BY:

The Property Services Department

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In the "Blue Book" air quality tests done on 47 Halifax school buildings, April, 1994:

1994 "Blue Book" Summary:

- Virtually every school had some classrooms with elevated CO2 levels.

- 24 of 47 buildings contained unacceptable moulds or fungus.

- 23 contained fungal species that are notorious mycotoxin producers and that are "unacceptable occupants of indoor air".

Seven of these included the *Stachybotrys Chartarum* (formerly known as *Stachybotrys Atra*), a particularly dangerous fungus.

- One school contained a fungus which is a known human pathogen.

- 13 contained higher levels of "acceptable" moulds which indicated chronically wet environments.

- Only 10 buildings were determined to have minimal fungal contamination. (Interestingly, one of these was evacuated and closed permanently due to toxic mould overgrowth about a year and a half later.)

The school maintenance department has been working to tighten up leaky buildings and remove mouldy carpets, tiles, and generally clean up. Parents were generally not informed of the tests or their implications, and as the clean up process goes on, in most cases children and staff have continued to use the contaminated areas.