

September 26, 2006

### ASBESTOS AT YORK

In an effort to effectively deal with health and safety issues of relevance to all members of the York University community, unions on campus have constituted an **All Unions' Health and Safety Committee** (AUHSC), chaired by Paula Gowdie Rose. The **All Unions' Health and Safety Committee** is comprised of worker members of all the respective Joint Health and Safety Committees at York University.

Among other things, the **All Unions' Health and Safety Committee** will endeavour to provide information on important workplace health and safety matters and, where necessary, take steps to implement measures that will address and/or resolve such issues.

A current health concern of many employees is asbestos at York. Amendments were made to the Asbestos Regulations in 2005 which requires the identification and documentation of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in the workplace, as well as the safe maintenance and/or removal of these materials. **It is the employer's obligation to ensure your occupational health and safety while at work.**

It was recently made public that several buildings on campus have asbestos containing materials, e.g., ceiling tiles, floor tiles and spackle (may also be known as stipple/stucco). Exposure to asbestos fibers can be detrimental to our health so we are providing links to articles that provide information on asbestos. (This same information will also be attached in readable formats (e.g., Adobe Acrobat format, etc.) if the mailing is done electronically.)

We realize that employees may have questions and/or concerns relating to asbestos and exposure to asbestos. Please take the time to read the articles provided and send any questions and/or concerns to [yusahas@yorku.ca](mailto:yusahas@yorku.ca) by **October 13, 2006**. At some point in the Fall, we will convene a meeting where your questions and/or concerns can be addressed by a certified occupational hygienist.

If you believe that you may have been exposed to asbestos while at York University, you may download a copy of the **Workers Exposure Incident Form** from the web site of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) at:

[http://www.wsib.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkerExposureIncidentForm/\\$File/3958a.pdf](http://www.wsib.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkerExposureIncidentForm/$File/3958a.pdf)

Complete the **Workers Exposure Incident Form** and mail it to:  
Program for Exposure Incident Reporting (PEIR)  
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board  
200 Front Street West, 4th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3J1

If you need assistance completing the form, contact your Health and Safety Committee.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact either the Labour Co-Chair of your Joint Health and Safety Committee or the Chair of your union's Health and Safety Committee.

*All Unions' Health and Safety Committee*

#### Attachments:

NAME OF ARTICLE/ DOCUMENT	PUBLISHED BY	URL
Asbestos (3 pgs)	Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, Inc.	<a href="http://www.ohcow.on.ca/resources/handbooks/asbestos/asbestos.pdf">http://www.ohcow.on.ca/resources/handbooks/asbestos/asbestos.pdf</a>
Health Risks of Asbestos (3 pgs)	Health Canada	<a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/asbestos-amiante_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/asbestos-amiante_e.html</a>
Asbestos Unabated (3 pgs)	Workers Health and Safety Centre	<a href="http://www.whsc.on.ca/dev/pubs/ats/asbestos.pdf">http://www.whsc.on.ca/dev/pubs/ats/asbestos.pdf</a>
Asbestos (4 pgs)	CUPE – Health and Safety Branch	<a href="http://cupe.ca/HealthAndSafety/Asbestos">http://cupe.ca/HealthAndSafety/Asbestos</a>
Workers Exposure Incident Form (3 pgs)	Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)	<a href="http://www.wsib.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkerExposureIncidentForm/\$File/3958a.pdf">http://www.wsib.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkerExposureIncidentForm/\$File/3958a.pdf</a>

## ALL UNIONS' HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

*"Working together to address workplace health and safety issues at York University"*

### 2006 Labour Co-Chairs and Health and Safety Reps:

Debbie Freele (YUSAPUY)  
Paul Grayson (YUFA)  
Jack McCann, Jr. (CUPE 1356)  
Dianne Bravo (CUPE 3903)  
Shawn Payne (IUOE)  
Jerry Scott Carson (IUOE)

Chair  
Paula Gowdie Rose (YUSAPUY)  
[pgowdie@yorku.ca](mailto:pgowdie@yorku.ca)

