



POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE

Asbestos detected in the roofing of the Canada Science and Technology Museum

OTTAWA, October 25, 2013 – The Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation (CSTMC) is beginning work to seal off from the inside of the Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) under the roofing surfaces affected by recent roof replacement work, which revealed the presence of materials containing asbestos.

After pulling back several layers of roof membrane, the contractor working on Phase 1 of the Roof Replacement Program at the CSTM at 1867 St. Laurent Blvd uncovered materials which raised suspicion of possibly containing asbestos. The CSTMC immediately proceeded to have the materials tested. The material tested was found to contain 1% tremolite asbestos. In accordance with Ontario Regulation 278, 2005, the *Regulation respecting Asbestos in Construction Projects and in Building and Repair Operations* under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, work disturbing this material stopped.

The CSTMC immediately requested the services of Stantec Consulting Limited to test air quality, in accordance with the *Canadian Health and Safety Regulations* of the Canada Labour Code. Testing began the evening of October 16, and did not detect the presence of asbestos fibre, and showed only minimal or non-existent particulate readings, well below required standards. Subsequent tests returned similar results. The CSTMC will continue air quality tests on a regular basis, and the results will be subject to the highest level of vigilance.

“The health, safety, and well-being of the people who visit us and work at the museum are our absolute priority,” said CSTMC Interim President and CEO Fernand Proulx. “This is why we acted as soon as the situation was discovered, and that we are today divulging the extent of the situation and the actions we are taking to remedy it in all transparency. We will continue to show the same transparency following the evolution of the situation.”

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