



First Nations and Inuit Health Branch  
Ontario Region  
Environmental Public Health Services  
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January 29, 2013

Chief R. Donald Maracle  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte  
13 Old York Road  
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory  
K0K 1X0

Dear Chief Maracle:

**RE:    Quinte Mohawk School, IAQ report**

As requested, our Community Medicine Specialist, Dr. Maureen Carew reviewed the Survey of Airborne Benzene and Other Volatile Organic Compounds at the Quinte Mohawk School report by Pheonix OHC. Her findings were as follows.

The main concern in the community is exposure to benzene, it was reassuring that the testing of 9 locations within the school did not reveal elevated levels of benzene. As the author, Tom Beardall mentioned in the report, the calculated incremental lifetime cancer risk from occupying the school 8 hours per day was less than 1 in 100,000 - which is considered a negligible incremental risk by Health Canada.

The total VOC levels in the daycare and kindergarten (at 600 and 570 ug/m<sup>3</sup> respectively) are within the limits set by ASHRAE of 1000 ug/m<sup>3</sup> but higher than the European Collaborative Action report level of 200 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. At these levels, the main health effects seen, if any, would be irritative. The author reported that the possible sources were off-gassing from arts and crafts materials, latex paint or from vinyl flooring.

The day-care centre was noted to be a storage area for several cleaning products, paints and sources of VOCs. Mr. Beardall provided recommendations for the school to follow in order to reduce VOC levels, such as: increasing the supply of outdoor air, promoting hand washing rather than sanitizers, using low VOC cleaning and maintenance products, reducing the number of chemical products stored and using low VOC materials for future renovations or repair.

It would be prudent for the school to follow these suggested to reduce VOC levels in the kindergarten and daycare areas. If you would like to further discuss, please feel free to contact me at 613-948-3201.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ross  
Senior Environmental Health Officer

cc: Dr. Maureen Carew  
Kathleen Manderville, Principle, QMS  
Sandra Green, EHO