



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S5

AVR 21 2016  
APR

Ms. Laura Lozanski  
Health and Safety Officer  
Canadian Association of University Teachers  
2705 Queensview Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 0K2

Dear Ms. Lozanski:

Thank you for your Environmental Petition (number 387) regarding concerns about Canada's continued use and import of asbestos. Your petition was forwarded to Public Services and Procurement Canada (formerly Public Works and Government Services Canada) on December 21, 2015.

Public Services and Procurement Canada provides federal departments and agencies with office and common use accommodation that supports the delivery of their programs and services. The Department acts as steward for various public works such as buildings, bridges and dams, and national treasures such as the Parliamentary Precinct and other heritage assets throughout the country. The Department also provides federal departments, agencies, and the Parliament of Canada with responsive and cost-effective real property services. To this end, Public Services and Procurement Canada has the following responses to the questions within your petition pertaining to the mandate of the Department.

In question 1b, you enquire about whether "a review [was] conducted on the effectiveness of current management measures to address the concerns associated with asbestos." Public Services and Procurement Canada has regular reviews built into its policy instrument, including an annual update of the identified asbestos containing materials in the asbestos management plan at the building level, for federally-owned buildings within its portfolio. This update verifies the presence of any new friable asbestos containing material and serves to inform the planning of maintenance or remediation. There is also a five-year review cycle of the policy instrument itself.

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In Question 1c, you ask if “Public Works and Government Services Canada is investing money into asbestos abatement from federal buildings, why does the federal government continue to allow the use of asbestos in new construction projects, in the forms of pipes and other materials?” Public Services and Procurement Canada strictly conforms to the legislative requirements under the *Canada Labour Code*, as well as the *National Building Code*, as they relate to asbestos. The Department recognizes there are concerns with the use of asbestos from the Canadian public. To this end, effective April 1, 2016, there is a new departmental ban on the use of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in all new construction and renovation for buildings within its portfolio.

Finally, in question 1d of your petition, you inquire as to whether the Government of Canada will “develop a national registry of buildings containing asbestos.” The Department is creating a National Asbestos Inventory for federally owned office buildings in its portfolio, which is expected to be completed in summer 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy M. Foote', written in a cursive style.

Judy M. Foote, PC, MP  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement

c.c.: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, PC, MP  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Jane Philpott, PC, MP  
Minister of Health