

July 9, 1944

Dr. Leroy U. Gardner, Director
Saranac Laboratories
Saranac, New York

Dear Dr. Gardner:

Could you give me your present opinion about the relationship, if any, between asbestosis and tuberculosis? I know that previous studies appear to indicate that asbestosis would not predispose to tuberculosis. Has any recent experience changed this point of view? Recently I have had occasion to look over our claim experience in Thetford Mines and note that tuberculosis is the chief cause of death. Of course, mortality with respect to tuberculosis for the population as a whole in Thetford is high. On the other hand, as far back as 1931, we have found some pretty high dust counts in some of these mines with instances where 99.85% of these dust particles were less than 10 microns. We are inclined to think that the claim experience represents the type of worker we are dealing with and is not related to working conditions. However, we are planning to study this a little more closely. Before getting into it, I would appreciate your advice in approaching this problem. Regardless of whether this is a problem directly related to working conditions, it is obviously a problem in the control of tuberculosis. Who in the public health field in Canada would be most interested and helpful in studying and doing something about this?

We will probably ask Fehnel to make some more dust studies in some of the places that we have access to and I am also trying to secure some tuberculosis mortality figures for comparison for Thetford by age groups from Thetford, Quebec, and the Dominion of Canada. If you have any data I would appreciate having them.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Medical Director