

Thetford Mines, P.Q.  
July 19, 1945.

George M. Wheatley, M. MD.,  
Assistant Medical Director,  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.,  
Home Office,  
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Re: Asbestosis and Tuberculosis  
Thetford Mines, P.Q.

Dear Doctor:-

I hope my long silence was not interpreted by you as a lack of interest in the Health Problems of Thetford Mines.

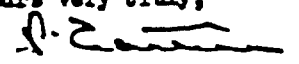
I have read, with interest, your report on Tuberculosis and Asbestosis in Thetford Mines, and having not yet performed enough work in that special field to be in a position to add any serious comments, I am prone to accept your conclusion. Later on, once, more than 3,000 adults will have been X-rayed I think I will be in a position to furnish you with some valuable data.

I am sending you a brief analysis of the death certificates of all cases of tuberculosis which occurred in Thetford Mines in 1944. From this review the high incidence among female and among age-group 0-20 years is, in my opinion, an additional proof that the dust exposure cannot easily be assigned as the causal agent of the high tuberculosis mortality, and morbidity incidence. This study also forced me to observe that there is no recording system to help statistically any survey of that kind in Thetford Mines.

Two weeks ago, when giving a talk at the Rotary lunch on tuberculosis, I took this opportunity to tell the members that there is a tuberculosis problem in Thetford Mines, and that with some improvements in the existing organizations, it should be easy enough to organize in Thetford a control program as efficient as in any place else in Quebec.

In fact in Thetford Mines, the Provincial Chest Clinic, the Industrial Clinic, the Sanatorium with an adequate laboratory could realize the case-finding program, the follow-up examination, the Central Roster Office, the treatment and segregation of tuberculosis patients, the educational program, which are the more standard and recommended ways of trying to control tuberculosis.

Yours very truly,

  
PAUL DARTIER, MD.

c/o Asbestos Corporation Ltd.  
Thetford Mines, P.Q.

Brief Analysis of the death certificates of all cases of Tuberculosis who died in Thetford Mines, Que. during 1944.

| Case No. | Diagnosis                           | Sex | Age | Occupation (1)   |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1        | Pulm. Tbc.                          | F   | 45  | House Wife       |
| 2        | " " & Intest. Tbc.                  | F   | 59  | Housewife        |
| 3        | Pott Disease & Questionable F. Tbc. | F   | 28  |                  |
| 4        | Pulm. Tbc                           | M   | 37  | Electrician      |
| 5        | " "                                 | M   | 27  | Mine ?           |
| 6        | " "                                 | M   | 18  |                  |
| 7        | Tub. meningitis                     | F   | 18  |                  |
| 8        | " "                                 | M   | 1   |                  |
| 9        | Pulm. Tbc.                          | M   | 41  | Foreman ?        |
| 10       | " "                                 | F   | 11  |                  |
| 11       | Tub. meningitis                     | M   | 7   |                  |
| 12       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | F   | 63  |                  |
| 13       | Tub. meningitis                     | F   | 15  |                  |
| 14       | Bones tuberculosis                  | F   | 1   |                  |
| 15       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | M   | 19  | Mine 3 years     |
| 16       | " "                                 | F   | 17  |                  |
| 17       | Miliary Tuberculosis                | M.  | 13  |                  |
| 18       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | F.  | 25  |                  |
| 19       | " "                                 | F   | 63  |                  |
| 20       | Tub. meningitis                     | F   | 7   |                  |
| 21       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | F   | 13  |                  |
| 22       | " "                                 | M   | 38  | Asbestos ?       |
| 23       | " "                                 | M   | 29  | ?                |
| 24       | " "                                 | M   | 20  | Asbestos 5 years |
| 25       | " "                                 | M   | 25  | ?                |
| 26       | " "                                 | M   | 26  | Asbestos 7 years |
| 27       | " "                                 | M   | 22  |                  |
| 28       | Tub. meningitis                     | F   | 1   |                  |
| 29       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | M.  | 20  | Asbestos 3 years |
| 30       | Tub. laryngitis                     | F   | 38  |                  |
| 31       | Pulm. Tbc.                          | M   | 18  | Asbestos         |
| 32       | " "                                 | M   | 36  | Laborer ?        |

Population of Thetford Mines 1944: 14,500 - Deaths 32 - the mortality rate 220

| All Ages  | Male | Female | Tuberculosis death rate |
|-----------|------|--------|-------------------------|
| STAL: 32  | 17   | 15     | 220                     |
| 0-19      | 5    | 8      |                         |
| 20-24     | 3    | 0      |                         |
| 25-34     | 5    | 2      |                         |
| 35 & over | 4    | 5      |                         |

(1) As you may observe the recording of occupation is in general poorly done. It was also impossible to collect significant data regarding residency.

P. Z. ...



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

QUEBEC

August 6, 1945.

AUG 5 1945

Dr. George M. Wheatley,  
Assistant Vice-President, Welfare,  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,  
New York City,  
U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Wheatley,

Following a prolonged absence from my  
office, your letter of July 10th was handed to me together  
with a copy of your paper on tuberculosis and asbestosis.

I intend to send it to the Canadian Public  
Health Journal for publication, unless you prefer to have  
it published in a French Journal.

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Tourangeau, M.D.,

FJT/H.-

Director of the Division

