



Occupational Health & Safety News

2011 DIRECTOR

Centre canadien d'information et de sécurité au travail

Vol. 5 No. 22 June 7, 1982

Tripartite advisory task force also to be formed

Ottawa lends support to asbestos data centre

This week the Canadian Asbestos Information Centre will officially begin operations at its Montreal headquarters. Its establishment is the result of a decision made earlier this year by the two founding organizations — the Institut de médecine du travail et de l'environnement (Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health), and the Institut de recherche et de développement sur l'amiante (Institute for Research and Development on Asbestos) — to combine their resources, experience and knowledge to create a central source of information on asbestos.

The federal government has joined these two institutes in supporting the Asbestos Information Centre. In Montreal last week, at the World Symposium on Asbestos, Herb Gray, federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (also responsible for Regional Economic Expansion) informed delegates that Ottawa is contributing \$400,000 toward the establishment of the Centre which, in addition to its Montreal office and medical library, will also have an Ottawa office. (For coverage of the Symposium, see Special Report, pp 3,4).

Besides serving as a reference, documentation and information distribution centre, the agency also aims to promote the safe use of asbestos. It is also responsible for promoting adherence to safety standards and practices in asbestos mining, processing, product manufacturing, and use. Accordingly, it has a dual role to play, encouraging the use of the safest methods and processes while simultaneously ensuring that users comply with proposed standard practices.

In its role as a collector and distributor of up-to-date, wide-ranging technical and scientific information on asbestos-related matters, the Centre seeks to ensure that all interested parties — workers, users, governments and

the general public — receive this information. In addition, it gives special consideration to countries which have not yet adopted standards and regulations for the safe use of asbestos.

The Centre is located at 1130 Sherbrooke St W, Suite 410, Montreal H3A 2M8; 514/844-3956.

Herb Gray followed up his announcement of federal funding for the Asbestos Information Centre with another one on the creation of a Consultative Task Force on the Asbestos Industry. Comprised of representatives from industry, labor and government, the task force will help the government recognize and respond to current and future sectoral problems and opportunities. Gray explained.

Royal Commission hearings resume

In Toronto, meanwhile, hearings of the Royal Commission on Asbestos have resumed and will be continued through June, with testimony to be presented on standard-setting, enforcement, implementation and workers' compensation. Among the witnesses and parties with standing scheduled to make presentations and give testimony are Robert Sass, Saskatchewan Associate Deputy Minister of Labor and director of the Department's Occupational Health and Safety Branch; Robert Wilson, director of Ontario Hydro's safety and health division (both on June 15); and Dr Paul Kotin, former vice-president of health, safety and environment for Johns-Manville in the U.S. (June 23). Others will appear at the hearings on a to-be-announced basis; further information on the schedule can be obtained after June 1 by calling Linda Kahn at the Commission office, 416/965-1885.

Director of Centre: Mr. Georges Dahmen

Canadian Occupational Health and Safety News solicited Subscriptions by Corbus, 1450 Dixie Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario. Telephone 496-4457/101. The contents of this publication are copyright and reproduction whole or in part by any means is forbidden without the permission of Corbus Information Services Limited. Information: 496-4457. Sales: 496-4458. ISSN 0714-6132

Second Class Reg. No. 9862

Subscription rates: 6-month introductory rate — \$20 One year — \$37 Two years — \$317, Three years — \$452.

Managing Editor: Debbie Gresham Editor: Ashwari Scott Williams Contributing Editor: Craig Patterson Editor: Georges Dahmen Editor: Susan and Health Law: Vincent Biele Editor: Corbus Information Services Ltd. Editor: Michelle Trinardo Editor: Bob Gresham Editor: Jim Hibdon Circulation: Rosemary Leighton

DUP 0906853

552