



Mould & Moisture Assessment Eliot River Elementary School

Project No. 12620

Prepared for:

**PEI Dept. Transportation &
Infrastructure Renewal
P.O. Box 2000
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April 15, 2011



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL-TECH Environmental Services Limited was retained by the PEI Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to conduct a mould assessment at Eliot River Elementary School, 79 Hilltop Drive, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island.

The assessment was carried out on February 28, 2011 to evaluate building components for potential water intrusion and the possibility of hidden mould contamination as well as signs of visible mould within the school.

The findings were then used to provide recommendations for appropriate remedial actions and/or to recommend further investigative strategies, if necessary.

Based on the assessment findings, the following conclusions and recommendations have been summarized:

Conclusions & Recommendations

Results of our mould assessment conducted on February 28, 2011 indicate that overall, the extent of visible and potential mould growth throughout the school is relatively minor in each location identified (i.e. <10ft² of visible/anticipated mould growth).

The majority of mould issues are related to mechanical issues in pipe chase areas. Several of these areas were identified with small scale visible mould on mechanical pipe insulation and porcelain overflow tanks as noted in Table II. It is recommended to have suspect pipe insulations and fittings in these areas tested for asbestos prior to any disturbance work and to follow the applicable provincial asbestos regulations.

Leaks noted on ceiling tiles appear to be related to both mechanical issues with leaking pipes and condensation as well as roof leaks. There were concerns about leaks noted in the School Background Mould Investigation form (Appendix II) regarding on-going problems in the Gymnasium roof as well as the area above the Library. This was evident in the library with a number of ceiling tiles affected in this area. Repairs in this area should be carried out to prevent further water infiltration and subsequent mould growth.

The affected ceiling tiles noted throughout the school are noted in Table III. There was only one area identified with visible mould on the ceiling tiles as noted in Table II. All ceiling tiles exhibiting evidence of water damage are recommended to be removed and replaced as a precautionary measure and to assist in detecting further water leaks. Removal of mould affected ceiling tiles should be completed using Level 1 precautions.

It was reported in the School Background Mould Investigation form (Appendix II) that there has been a history of water on the floor area of the gymnasium. Although there was no visible mould or moisture observed at the time of the assessment, there was elevated moisture detected in some of the block wall and some visible signs of degraded paint surfaces. Future occurrences should be reported promptly to assist in detecting the source of infiltration so that it can be repaired.

Levels of remediation for any noted mould affected areas have been summarized in Table II based on the surface area.

All work should be performed by workers who are properly trained in the hazards of mould remediation. The removal of water-damaged building materials and mould-contaminated

building materials should be completed following Level 1, 2, and 3 mould remediation procedures as outlined the CCA Mould Guidelines for the Canadian Construction Industry, 2004, or equivalent.

As a minimum, it is recommended that an independent inspection be conducted after remediation and repairs to verify adequate completion. Part of this inspection may include microbial air sampling to assist in the evaluation and aid in confirming appropriate conditions.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the undersigned directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry G. Koughan', is positioned above the printed name.

*Larry G. Koughan, CET, CRSP
Branch Manager / Senior Project Consultant*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
2.0	BACKGROUND	2
3.0	MOULD IN INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS.....	3
4.0	MOULD ASSESSMENT & REMEDIATION GUIDELINES	3
5.0	MOULD ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	5
	5.1 Visual Assessment & Moisture Content Readings	6
6.0	OBSERVATIONS & FINDINGS	7
7.0	CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	8
8.0	LIMITATIONS.....	9

REFERENCES

Appendix I	- Site Floor Plan
Appendix II	- School Background Mould Investigation Form

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ALL-TECH Environmental Services Limited was retained by the PEI Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to conduct a mould assessment at Eliot River Elementary School located at 79 Hilltop Drive, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island.

The assessment was carried out on February 28, 2011 to evaluate building components for potential water intrusion and the possibility of hidden mould contamination as well as signs of visible mould within the school.

The findings were then used to provide recommendations for appropriate remedial actions and/or to recommend further investigative strategies, if necessary.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Constructed buildings must attain many goals to meet its intended purpose. The building must provide a comfortable, healthy environment for its occupants, it must be structurally sound, it must keep out elements such as rain, wind, snow, cold and heat, and it must provide these functions over an extended period of time.

All of these functions are affected by moisture in one way or another. Uncontrolled moisture in buildings can cause adverse health effects to its occupants due to the growth of microorganisms, such as mould. Uncontrolled moisture can reduce the life span of buildings through premature degradation of building components. The building structure itself can become unsound due to uncontrolled moisture causing structural damage to wood and steel. In summary, uncontrolled moisture will virtually negate the goals of building designs. According to ASTM Practices for Increasing Durability of Building Constructions Against Water-Induced Damage (E241), except for structural errors, about 90 percent of all building construction problems are associated with water in some way.

However, it will be impossible to completely eliminate moisture from buildings. In fact, moisture is necessary to prevent wood products from drying out and to alleviate upper respiratory discomfort, up to a point. The issue then is not to eliminate moisture from buildings but to properly control moisture as it cycles through the building.

Indoor and outdoor environments naturally harbour a great variety of microscopic organisms such as mould. Prolonged exposure to excessive moisture enables microbes to flourish. If conditions are such that moisture is limited, then these microbes have a stable relationship with the built environment. However, when moisture accumulates more rapidly than the natural drying process, the ecology changes and favours the rapid amplification of mould.^[1]

When dealing with mould/water damaged materials, the remediation will usually involve the removal of some building materials (i.e. drywall, wood, etc.).

3.0 MOULD IN INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

Mould is a naturally occurring and essential part of our environment as they act as decomposers, breaking down dead organic material (such as leaves, wood and other plant debris) which they use as a food source. Mould spores are brought into indoor environments through ventilation systems, open windows or doors, or tracked in on footwear. Therefore, mould is found in almost every indoor environment and a normal background population of mould spores on indoor surfaces and within indoor air should be expected.

If conditions exist that allow mould to grow indoors, concentrations will increase to levels that are typically not found in buildings. Indoor mould growth occurs primarily as a result of water damage to cellulose-containing building materials and/or furnishings (such as wood, drywall, wallpaper, ceiling tiles, etc.) during catastrophic or chronic events such as leaks, floods, condensation (associated with high humidity or cold spots), improper design or operation of humidification systems, and building envelope failures. Under these conditions, mould growth may present a risk to the building structure itself (through decomposition of building materials) as well as to occupants in the building (through potentially adverse health effects).

4.0 MOULD ASSESSMENT & REMEDIATION GUIDELINES

Regardless of the type or severity of health effects that may be caused by exposure to mould, mould growth inside a building should be considered unacceptable from a building operations and maintenance standpoint as well as from a health risk standpoint.

Several government agencies and special interest groups have developed guidelines for the proper assessment and remediation of mould-contaminated buildings. In Canada, recent guidelines have been published by the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) entitled “*Mould Guidelines for the Canadian Construction Industry*” (March 2004)².

The above guidelines are similar in nature and incorporate elements common to several other guidelines issued by groups such as Health Canada⁴, the Manitoba Department of Labour⁷, the New York City Department of Health⁸, the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)⁶, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)¹⁰. Common to all is the need to remediate contaminated building materials under controlled conditions, with the extent of safety measures employed based partially on the extent of contamination. In general, more stringent remediation methods, engineering controls and worker protection is required the more extensive the mould contamination. These requirements have generally been distinguished in the guidelines by employing different Levels of Remediation (e.g., Level 1, 2 or 3).

ALL-TECH recognizes and follows the practices and procedures outlined in the most current mould remediation guidelines available. General recommendations for remediation procedures, engineering controls and work practices that are common to several of the above-mentioned guidelines and used by ALL-TECH are summarized below in Table I.

TABLE I
Summary of Mould Remediation Requirements by Level of Remediation

Level of Remediation	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Estimated Area of Mould Growth	<10 ft ² (<1 m ²)	10-100 ft ² (1-10 m ²)	>100 ft ² (>10 m ²)
Level of Containment	Polyethylene drop sheet	Polyethylene enclosure	Polyethylene enclosure and two-chambered worker/waste decontamination facilities
Engineering Controls	Turn off HVAC system and seal over openings, use dust suppression methods	Isolate/seal the HVAC system, use dust suppression methods, maintain negative pressure through use of HEPA vacuum or HEPA-filtered negative air unit	Isolate/seal the HVAC system, use dust suppression methods, maintain negative pressure (that is to be continually measured and recorded) through use of HEPA-filtered negative air unit
Worker Protection	Dust impermeable gloves, half-face air purifying respirator (N95 minimum), full body dust-impervious coveralls	Dust impermeable gloves, half-face air purifying respirator (100 Series), full body dust-impervious coveralls and boot covers or separate work boots	Dust impermeable gloves, full-face PAPRs or full face non-powered air purifying respirator (100 Series), full body dust-impervious coveralls and boot covers or separate work boots
Clean Up Procedures	Double-bag waste in 6-mil polyethylene bags, HEPA-vacuum and/or wet wipe exposed surfaces with a detergent solution	Double-bag waste in 6-mil polyethylene bags, HEPA-vacuum and wet wipe exposed surfaces with a detergent solution	Bag waste in 6-mil polyethylene bag within work area and then within double bagging room of waste decontamination facility, HEPA-vacuum and wet wipe exposed surfaces with a detergent solution
Project Quality Assurance	Project authority should consider whether removal of occupants adjacent to the work area is necessary.	Project authority should consider whether removal of occupants adjacent to the work area is necessary. Consult with qualified Health & Safety professional prior to remediation work and for monitoring of compliance with guidelines. A competent supervisor to be present during all contaminated work and a competent person should inspect the work area for enclosure defects on a regular basis.	Project should be conducted following a site-specific work plan or specification. Project authority should consider whether removal of occupants adjacent to the work area is necessary. Consult with qualified Health & Safety professional prior to remediation work and for monitoring of compliance with guidelines. A competent supervisor to be present during all contaminated work and a competent person should inspect the work area for enclosure defects on a regular basis. Project authority or representative should periodically inspect work activities and inspect the work area for acceptable completion via visual inspection and have clearance testing (air and/or surface sampling) conducted.

It should be noted that the remediation procedures summarized in Table I are not meant to be comprehensive. The summary is general in nature only, as specific recommended requirements vary slightly from guideline to guideline. Each applicable guideline should be consulted for a full description of their recommended remedial procedures. In addition, the procedures outlined above may not necessarily reflect procedures to be employed on every project, as specific procedures to be followed should be determined on a project by project basis, based on professional judgment. The general procedures outlined above also do not account for specific conditions that may be encountered, such as remediation in locations where immuno-compromised or other susceptible occupants may be present (e.g., hospitals or other health care facilities) or remediation of biohazards other than mould that may be present due to sewer backups, environmental floods or bird and bat droppings. Under these conditions, additional precautions may apply.

There are no specific regulations in P.E.I. addressing mould contamination. However, according to Health Canada and the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) guidelines on assessment and remediation of fungi in indoor environments, building materials supporting mould growth should be remediated *as rapidly as possible* in order to ensure a healthy environment. Remediation of mould growth is based on an approximation of the extent of visible mould growth including the estimated extent of any hidden mould growth.

5.0 MOULD ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Our assessment determination of the presence of mould growth and the extent included initial discussions with administration and / or safety chair about concerns and specific issues. A school background mould investigation form was sent to the school to complete and review with the on-site assessor.

A site floor plan was provided for the school to visually assess each room as it related to the drawing.

In order to assess the potential for and extent of mould growth (if any), our assessment consisted of a visual inspection of accessible areas and moisture content readings of representative building materials. If visible mould is observed, it is documented and noted based on the location and extent. If conditions are observed as extensive and categorized as high risk, then the Department of Education and TIR would be consulted for immediate action.

In areas noted with cracked surfaces, blistering, water stains, etc., moisture content readings are taken from these surfaces to evaluate if conditions are conducive to potential hidden mould sources. In areas where no elevated moisture readings are encountered they are noted but no further action is reported. In areas where elevated moisture is present and there is no access, further investigation is required and intrusive testing of wall cavities is carried out.

5.1 Visual Assessment & Moisture Content Readings

The focus of our visual assessment was to identify and quantify locations within the areas assessed that may be affected by water damage and/or mould growth. Evidence of water damage may include water staining and/or discolouration to building material surfaces and deterioration to building surface components (such as cracking or peeling paint or plaster, delamination of wallpaper, efflorescence to plaster and concrete surfaces, etc.). Degraded building materials (such as soft or crumbling drywall and plaster) also provide an indication of potential chronic water infiltration.

Mould growth was visually identified as spotty discolouration to surfaces or as a mass of fuzzy discolouration, depending on the extent of growth. The colour of mould growth will vary depending on the mould species present and the material that it is growing on. It is commonly found to be black, grayish, white, brown or green. Differentiation between mould growth and other staining or discolouration was made based on past experience and/or by confirmation of mould growth on similar surfaces through surface sampling.

Special attention was paid to building materials and furnishings that are typically conducive to mould growth due to their cellulose content. This included materials such as drywall, cardboard, lay-in ceiling tiles, carpeting, wallpaper, wood framing, plywood, particleboard, oriented strand board (OSB), etc., if present.

Our visual assessment was non-destructive in nature as classrooms were occupied at the time of the assessment. If locations were encountered where there was visual evidence of water damage and/or elevated moisture content readings, then the potential for “hidden” mould growth could exist between building elements, underneath the surface of the affected material or within wall/ceiling cavities, etc. In this case, further investigation would be required and intrusive investigation would follow to open up areas to inspect them.

In order to determine the moisture content of building materials present within the areas assessed, moisture content (MC) readings were taken using a Drieaz non-penetrating moisture meter. This unit is able to detect moisture content within wood, drywall and plaster/brick surfaces.

Measurements are reported in the range of 0 - 100% as an investigative tool. Values less than 30% are relative readings. From 30 – 70% indicates above normal moisture and greater than 70% indicates saturation of a material and further investigation.

Results of MC readings were used in conjunction with our visual assessment results to further define the extent of water damage. Elevated readings indicate recent or chronic water damage. In addition, elevated MC readings indicate the potential for hidden mould growth on the unexposed side of the material being measured. It should be noted that even if normal MC readings are obtained, areas that have been subjected to water damage in the past and have since dried out may have hidden mould growth.

Under these conditions, further assessment activities (such as intrusive investigation) would have to be performed to rule out the presence of mould growth.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS & FINDINGS

Results of our mould and moisture assessment are summarized in Tables II and III. Areas with visible or concealed mould are noted and an estimated Level of Remediation has been provided based on our findings.

Room numbers identified correspond to Site Floor Plans (Appendix 1) and not necessarily on site room numbers.

Table II Summary of Visible Mould affected areas		
Room No. / Description	Comments / Observations	Level of Remediation
Pipe Chase PC-1; PC-2; PC-3; PC-4; PC-5	visible mould on canvas pipe insulation covering and porcelain tank.	Have suspect materials tested for asbestos and treated accordingly. Level 1 Mould Remediation <10 ft ² (<1 m ²). (removal of affected areas)
Rm 216 Janitor Room	Visible mould on ceiling tile	Level 1 <10 ft ² (<1 m ²). (discard and replace; clean surrounding areas)

Table III Summary of Moisture affected areas		
Room No. / Description	Comments / Observations	Action required
Corridor 006; Rm 017 Janitor Rm; Rm 050; Storage 050A; Main lobby 101; Corridor 202 & 204; Library 229	Stained ceiling tiles throughout various areas. No obvious leaks or condensation was noted at time of inspection.	Replace ceiling tiles as precautionary measure and to assist in detecting further water leaks. Ongoing leaks reported in the gymnasium roof as well as the Library.
Gymnasium 134	Elevated moisture detected approximately 2' from bottom of concrete wall. History of water infiltration reported on the floor. No visible moisture or mould was reported at the time of the assessment.	Further investigation required into addressing water infiltration and potential hidden mould. Ongoing water infiltration reported on floor.

Classroom 013	Elevated moisture detected in concrete block wall under window. No evidence of damage to window components, No visible moisture or mould was reported.	Further investigation required into addressing water infiltration and potential hidden mould
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7.0 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Results of our mould assessment conducted on February 28, 2011 indicate that overall, the extent of visible and potential mould growth throughout the school is relatively minor in each location identified (i.e. <10ft² of visible/anticipated mould growth).

The majority of mould issues are related to mechanical issues in pipe chase areas. Several of these areas were identified with small scale visible mould on mechanical pipe insulation and porcelain overflow tanks as noted in Table II. It is recommended to have suspect pipe insulations and fittings in these areas tested for asbestos prior to any disturbance work and to follow the applicable provincial asbestos regulations.

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The affected ceiling tiles noted throughout the school are noted in Table III. There was only one area identified with visible mould on the ceiling tiles as noted in Table II. All ceiling tiles exhibiting evidence of water damage are recommended to be removed and replaced as a precautionary measure and to assist in detecting further water leaks. Removal of mould affected ceiling tiles should be completed using Level 1 precautions.

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Levels of remediation for any noted mould affected areas have been summarized in Table II based on the surface area.

All work should be performed by workers who are properly trained in the hazards of mould remediation. The removal of water-damaged building materials and mould-contaminated building materials should be completed following Level 1, 2, and 3 mould remediation procedures as outlined the CCA Mould Guidelines for the Canadian Construction Industry, 2004, or equivalent.

As a minimum, it is recommended that an independent inspection be conducted after remediation and repairs to verify adequate completion. Part of this inspection may include microbial air sampling to assist in the evaluation and aid in confirming appropriate conditions.

8.0 LIMITATIONS

The investigations, assessments and recommendations detailed in this report were carried out in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill normally exercised by reasonable members of the environmental and industrial hygiene consulting profession currently practicing under similar conditions in the area. There are no other warranties, expressed or implied, that apply to the professional services provided under the terms of our assignment and included in this report.

In preparing this report, ALL-TECH relied on information supplied by others. Except as expressly set out in this report, we have not made any independent verification of such information.

The investigation, assessments and recommendations in this report have been made based on conditions observed at the time of the assessment and are limited to the areas investigated. Mould growth conditions can change with time and mould growth additional to that noted in this report may occur if water infiltration/humidity conditions persist or reoccur. Unaccounted mould growth may also be present in the areas assessed due to concealed or subsurface conditions that can vary from those encountered (if accessed).

The investigation, assessments and recommendations in this report have been made in the context of existing industry accepted guidelines which were in place at the date of this report. The investigation did not take account of any government regulations not in effect or not generally promulgated at the date of this report.

This report is for the sole use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed. No other person or entity is entitled to use or rely upon this report.



Larry G. Koughan, CET, CRSP
Branch Manager



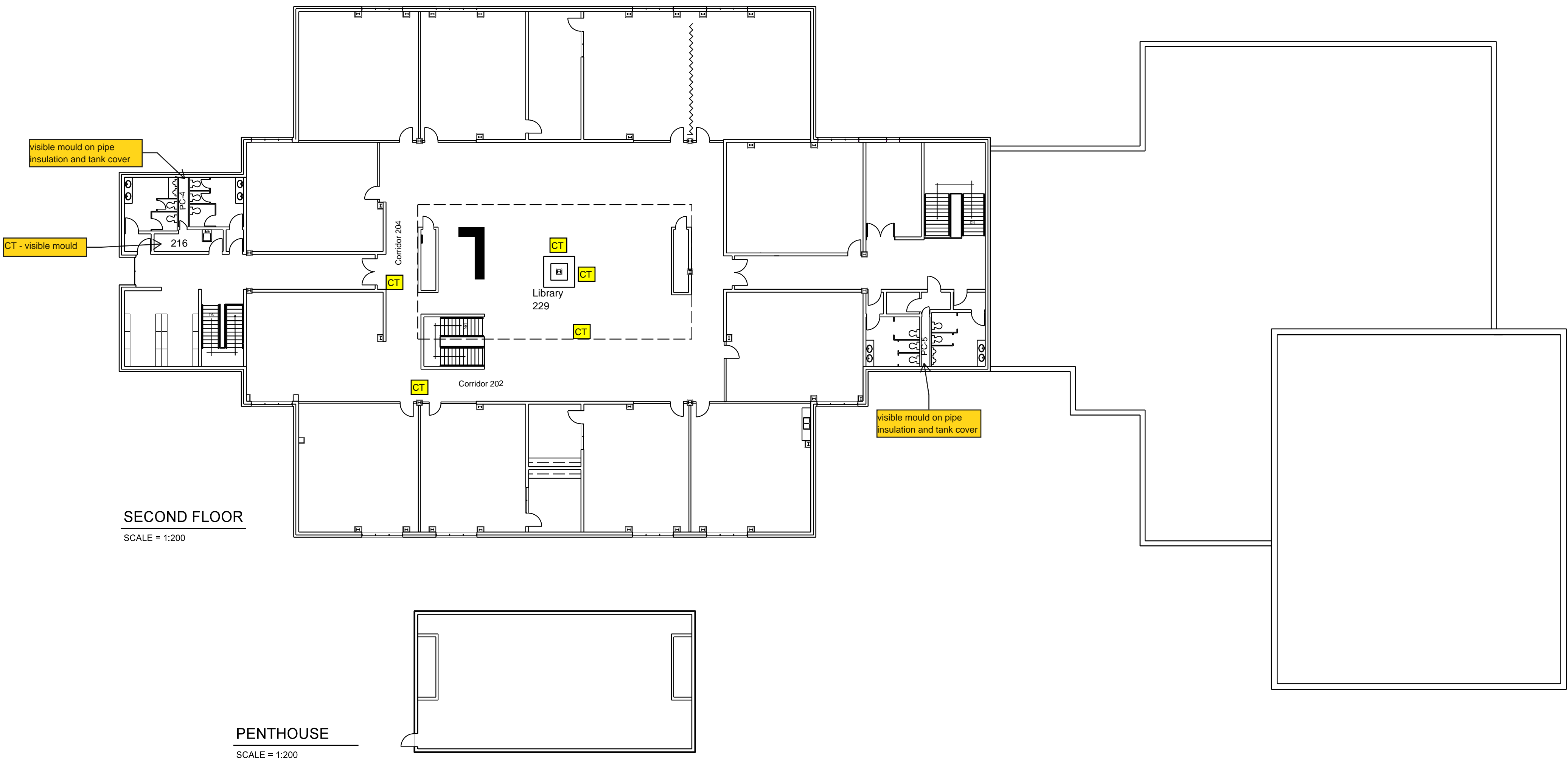
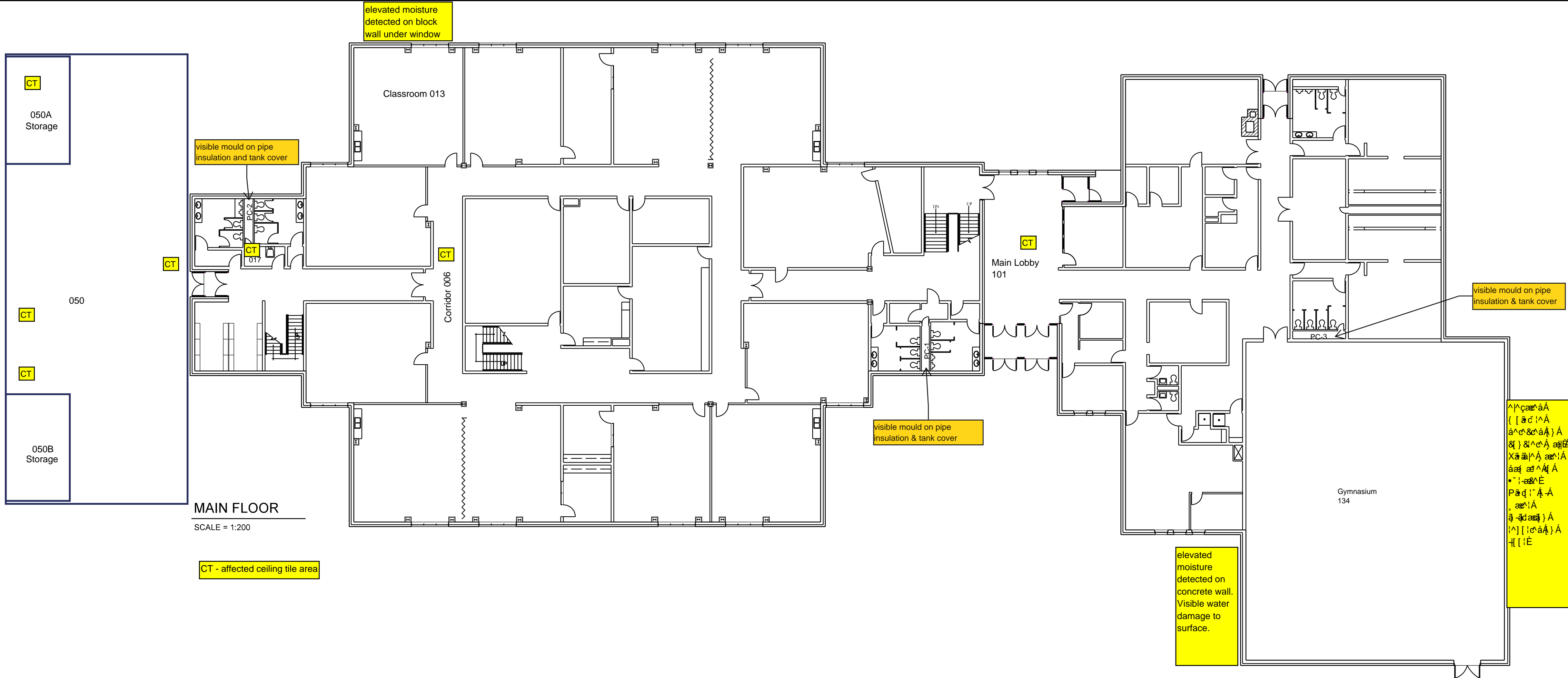
References:

1. American Industrial Hygiene Association: *Report of Microbial Growth Task Force*, ISBN 1-931504-26-1. May 2001.
2. Canadian Construction Association: *Mould Guidelines for the Canadian Construction Industry*, Standard Construction Document CCA 82. March 2004.
3. Environmental Abatement Council of Ontario: *EACO Mould Abatement Guidelines*. 2010.
4. Health Canada: *Fungal Contamination in Public Buildings: A Guide to Recognition and Management*. June 1995.
5. Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification: *S500-2006, Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration*, 3rd Edition. 2006.
6. Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification: *S520-2008, Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation*. 2nd Edition. 2008.
7. Manitoba Department of Labour, Workplace Safety and Health Division: *Guidelines for the Investigation, Assessment, & Remediation of Mould in Workplaces*. March 2001.
8. New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Disease Epidemiology: *Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments*. November 2008.
9. United States Environmental Protection Agency: *Mould Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*, EPA 402-K-01-001. March 2001.

APPENDIX I
Site Floor Plans

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS & SITE CONDITIONS ARE TO BE CONFIRMED ON SITE BY THE CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO VISIT THE SITE PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A TENDER & MAKE THEMSELVES FAMILIAR WITH CONDITIONS THAT MAY AFFECT THE WORK.



PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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A = Detail #
BB = Sheet # (Where Detail Required)
CC = Sheet # (Where Detailed)

Project Title :
Eliot River Elementary

Drawing Title :
Floor Plans

Scale : 1:200

Design By : -

Drawn By : -

Date : January 2011

Project No.:

170 0000

Drawing #:

A1 of 0

APPENDIX II
School Background Mould Investigation Form

①/② BG

SCHOOL BACKGROUND MOULD INVESTIGATION

School Name: Eliot River Elementary

Age (approx): 37 years

Interview(s) names: Anita Murphy (principal), Brenda Shaw (night custodian), Nancy Monaghan (day custodian), Mark MacDougall (gym teacher), and Jennifer Richard (classroom teacher)

No. of staff (approx) 45 **No. of students (approx)** 425

Building Construction – Exterior Brick **Interior perimeter walls** Concrete and gyprock

Have there been complaints about air quality? Yes (in 2008)

Have there been any complaints about musty or mouldy smells? Where? No

If so, what areas in particular? N/A

Has there been any history of flooding?

Yes. In 1995 the gym was flooded because of rusted/broken pipes; in 2000 the girls gym change room's floor drain burst open (concrete pieces were seen as far as the hallway) due to a back-up in the drain; the manhole at the South End entrance of the school does not drain well, so there has been flooding occurring there as well.

Have there been any roof leaks reported?

Yes, and they are still happening. The gym roof has been leaking for at least 10 years; the library ceiling (near the middle of the library) has leaked; on the second floor, near a classroom (6E) there was a leak this past fall. There are many visible stained ceiling boards, and some that have since been replaced.

Have there been other water leaks or excess condensation from pipes reported recently or chronic problems?

Yes, there have been quite visible water leaks in the library ceiling, the South End door boot tray area, the gym walls (along the baseboards), and the two lower level washrooms (near the music room).

Have there been any additions or major renovations? When? Yes. Over the last 20 years or so there have been new walls added to replace curtain dividers that separated the classrooms.

Have there been any windows replaced recently? Yes. The windows were replaced approximately 10 years ago.

Is there a problem of excess condensation on windows? No

Is there a ventilation system in the school?

Yes there is, however it is a system designed for an "open-concept" school. Our school was initially that, however, now each classroom is a separate room/individual classroom.

Are there any areas where reported visible mould exists? No

Has there been any mould remediation within the past 2 years? Where?

Yes there has been mould remediation in the Staff Room and in a classroom ceiling on the lower level (classroom 4E) due to a pipe leak.

Other comments / notes or observations:

- Level of dryness is very high in our school ,
- The heating system is uneven ,
- The air exchange system is very loud in the gym and it affects the gym teacher and the students (there is no way to access this system)
- Many ceiling tiles have been changed throughout the school in order to remove the stains that were caused by leaks above the ceilings (either roof or pipe).