

McIntyre Powder Project: Updates from OHCOW

March 2024 Newsletter

McIntyre Powder Project: Updates from OHCOW

March 2024 Newsletter

Introduction

Thank you for participating in the McIntyre Powder Project (MPP) at the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, Inc. (OHCOW). This newsletter is to provide you with updates on OHCOW's ongoing work with the McIntyre Powder-exposed group of mine workers. To date, over 620 workers registered with us for the MPP group, and 541 workers fully completed the intake process.

Registration is still open for any mine workers who were exposed to McIntyre Powder by calling Janice Martell at OHCOW at 1-800-461-7120. Deceased mine workers can be registered by their next-of-kin. **If you know other mine workers or their surviving next-of-kin who may need our services, please provide them with our contact information.** We are happy to speak with them to discuss their individual situation.

Individual Client Files

Our team continues to gather and review available medical and work history records for individual MPP clients. We also research and review available evidence from scientific studies and clinical literature of health conditions that have links to workplace exposures to chemicals, lubricants, solvents, fumes, dusts, carcinogens, vibration, arsenic, asbestos, silica dust, blasting fumes, carbon monoxide, ionizing radiation, diesel engine exhaust, McIntyre Powder, shift work, heat stress, drill oil mists, ionizing radiation, and many other toxic hazards. We provide individual medical and/or occupational hygiene reports to workers or their surviving next-of-kin regarding workplace injuries and occupational diseases. OHCOW reports have been used as supportive evidence for workers' compensation claims made to the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Workers' Compensation (WSIB)

There is no general compensation fund available for workers who were exposed to McIntyre Powder, meaning that there is no compensation for someone exposed to McIntyre Powder without documented health effects. However, any worker who suffers an injury at work or who develops an illness that is related to their job exposures (including McIntyre Powder or any other toxic hazard at work), the worker or their surviving next-of-kin can make a worker's compensation (WSIB) claim. If the claim is accepted by WSIB, some of the available financial compensation and benefits can include lost wages, Non-Economic Loss awards, health care benefits, long-term care costs, independent living allowance, funeral expenses reimbursement, death benefit, survivor benefits, and more.

We continue to assist workers or their Estates to complete the initial paperwork to start new individual WSIB claims, or to request that the WSIB reconsider their original decision on claims that were denied in the past.

For additional information and assistance regarding making WSIB claims related to McIntyre Powder or any other mining exposures, please contact Janice Martell at OHCOW at 1-800-461-7120.

Please note that free legal assistance is available through the **Office of the Worker Adviser (OWA)** to represent workers or their next-of-kin in WSIB claims, including appeals of denied claims.

We want to hear from you

If you have any new health issues, changes in your contact information, updates on the status of your WSIB claim, or any other updates to provide OHCOW, we want to hear from you. Please see our “Contact Us” section at the end of this newsletter.

Research and Reports

Our team continues to conduct investigative reviews into health conditions that are common to a number of workers within the MPP group, or health conditions that may be associated with toxic exposures in the mining industry. This work, both within our multidisciplinary OHCOW team and in collaboration with external scientific researchers, has resulted in the production of OHCOW reports that are available to you on our website or can be mailed to you by request, as well as the publication of articles and research papers in a number of journals. Our work is ongoing in this regard, as summarized in the chart below.

Health Issue	Types of Work Exposures of Concern	OHCOW Reports available
Respiratory (lungs/breathing) Examples: silicosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD – including emphysema and chronic bronchitis), pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial lung disease, occupationally-induced asthma, occupationally-aggravated asthma	Silica dust, diesel engine exhaust, blasting fumes, carbon monoxide, ammonia, solvents, chemicals, acid mists, McIntyre Powder, other vapours, dusts, gases, fumes (VDGF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis: Occupational Exposures as a Risk Factor • Review of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Adjudicative Support Material Binder (WSIB) for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) used in the adjudication of claims from Ontario miners • Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Occurrence and Associations with Occupational Exposures and Smoking

Health Issue	Types of Work Exposures of Concern	OHCOW Reports available
<p>Neurological Examples: Alzheimer’s/dementia, Parkinson’s, Lewy-Body dementia, motor neuron diseases (including ALS)</p>	<p>McIntyre Powder (Parkinson’s), Head injuries, carbon monoxide, diesel engine exhaust, whole body vibration, radon, arsenic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum dust exposure and evidence for impairment of cognitive functioning (report of Dr. Tee Guidotti, for OHCOW) <p><u>Other Resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of McIntyre Powder and Neurological Outcomes in the Mining Master File Cohort: Final Report [Occupational Cancer Research Centre, 2020] Bone aluminum measured in miners exposed to McIntyre Powder [<i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene</i>, 2022]
<p>Cancer Examples: Lung, kidney, bladder, thyroid, blood (leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphoma, etc.), pancreatic, prostate, digestive system cancers, and others have known associations with exposures found in the mining industry</p>	<p>diesel exhaust, crystalline silica dust, arsenic, benzene, nickel compounds, asbestos, welding fumes, acid mists, ionizing radiation, and many other carcinogens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bladder cancer and exposure in Ontario mines Pancreatic cancer and exposures in Ontario mines Kidney cancer and exposures in Ontario mines Lung cancer and exposures in Ontario hard rock mines Background and Development of the WSIB Lung Cancer-Gold Miners Policy 16-02-07 Radiation (Radon) in Ontario Uranium Mines WSIB Policy Exposure Data and Risk of Lung Cancer
<p>Sarcoidosis Sarcoidosis is a rare disease caused by an immune reaction in the body that causes the formation of small nodules in various organs of the body such as lungs, lymph nodes, heart, skin, liver, eyes, and spleen.</p>	<p>Silica dust, silicates, metals</p>	<p><u>Other Resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarcoidosis: An Occupational Disease? [<i>CHEST Journal</i>, 2021] Sarcoidosis in Ontario Hard-rock Miners: A Case Series [<i>American Journal of Industrial Medicine</i>, 2022]

Health Issue	Types of Work Exposures of Concern	OHCOW Reports available
<p>Cardiovascular (diseases of the heart or blood vessels) Examples: heart attack, stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA), ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure</p>	<p>McIntyre Powder, shift work, heat stress, fine (PM2.5) and ultrafine particulates (such as dusts, diesel exhaust particulate, crystalline silica), heavy physical work, loud noise, vibration, carbon monoxide, solvents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McIntyre Powder: Fine (PM2.5) and ultrafine dust exposures and cardiovascular disease <p><u>Other Resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> McIntyre Powder and its potential contribution to cardiovascular disease risk: A literature review through the McIntyre Powder historical lens [<i>American Journal of Industrial Medicine</i>, 2022] Physical and chemical characterization of McIntyre Powder: An aluminum dust inhaled by miners to combat silicosis [<i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene</i>, 2019]

Contact Us – We’ve MOVED!

In the summer of 2023, we moved our OHCOW Sudbury Clinic location from the downtown core to our new office in the New Sudbury area. We maintain a hybrid work schedule, working from both home and office, so please contact us by phone in advance if you would like an in-person office appointment.

Mail: **OHCOW, Unit AB – 432 Westmount Avenue, Sudbury, Ontario P3A 5Z8**

Email: sudbury@ohcow.on.ca

Phone: 705-523-2330 or toll-free 1-877-817-0336 (option 4)

Fax: 705-523-2606

Website: www.ohcow.on.ca

80th Anniversary of McIntyre Powder use - November 30, 2023



McIntyre Powder-exposed mine workers unveil a banner to mark the 80th anniversary of the first use of McIntyre Powder – November 30, 2023 (Sudbury, Ontario)

Tuesday, November 30, 1943 was the first recorded use of McIntyre Powder at McIntyre Mine in Schumacher, Ontario where it was developed, produced, and distributed to over 200 industrial licensees worldwide. To mark the 80th anniversary and to remember the affected mine workers, a public gathering was held in Sudbury, Ontario on November 30, 2023. Mining families and members of the public were in attendance, and many others contributed photos of McIntyre Powder-exposed mine workers that formed a photo collage banner and slide show.