



September 15, 2020

Dr. M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner of Public Health (Acting)

Siobhan Kearns
Director, Environmental Health

Niagara Public Health
Sir Isaac Brock Way, Campbell East, Thorold

Subject: Evidence of contaminants leaving the site: Former GM Property, St. Catharines

Dr. Hirji and Mr. Kearns,

This letter brings to your attention new evidence that demonstrates that the former GM Property on Ontario Street in St. Catharines represents a serious threat to human health.

Recent testing by the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) and a report from independent environmental experts proves dangerous contaminants, metals and PCBs are leaving the site and entering Twelve Mile Creek. with unknown consequences on wildlife and human health.

The Coalition also calls your attention to the debris piles left on the site after demolition, half demolished buildings, including a large storage building full to the ceiling with building debris. Given the widespread use of asbestos in the manufacturing processes, pipes and building construction, there is heightened cause to suspect that asbestos fibres would be found in these exposed piles. As you may be aware WSIB declared the site a *Cancer Cluster* due to the number of cancer cases recorded by former workers.

The above evidence of the presence of unknown contaminant(s) on the site suggests that some contaminants may also be migrating from the Site to adjacent residential areas via surface water, ground water, or wind-blown dust, as migration of contaminants does not occur only in one direction or by a single pathway.

We believe there is ample evidence to warrant a full investigation by Public Health Niagara in order to protect the health of citizens in the adjoining neighbourhoods, users of spaces such as Henley Rowing Centre downstream from the GM Property and as well as exposure to frequent trespassers on the site itself.

We attach for your review reference materials.

We would be more than happy to respond to your questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Van Meer". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Dennis Van Meer
Coalition for a Better St. Catharines
dlvanmeer@icloud.com

Attachments:

- Pinchin Environmental assessment showing location and nature or contaminants on the site
- The MECP report from testing February, 2020
- Response to MECP by the Coalition for a Better St. Catharines
- Memo from ELM environmental consultants
- Recent photographs from the Property
- Media release from the Coalition for a Better St. Catharines