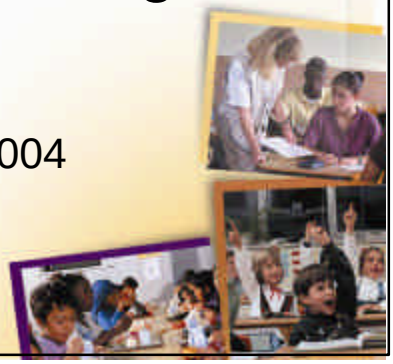
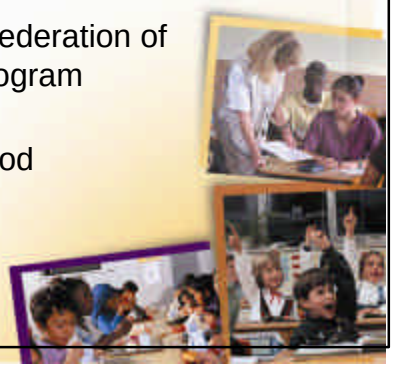
Real Experiences Working with the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Program

September 21, 2004



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentations
  - Sandra LeBlanc, Vice Principal, Port Morien, Nova Scotia
  - Darryl Alexander, American Federation of Teachers, Health & Safety Program Director
- General Question & Answer Period
- Closing Remarks



Sandra LeBlanc

Vice Principal
Port Morien, Nova Scotia

Training & Education

- B.A. & B.S., Chemistry
- Bachelor of Education
- Masters-level diploma in Guidance Counseling
- IAQ training in 1995
- On-the-job training
- National training program

IAQ TfS Experience

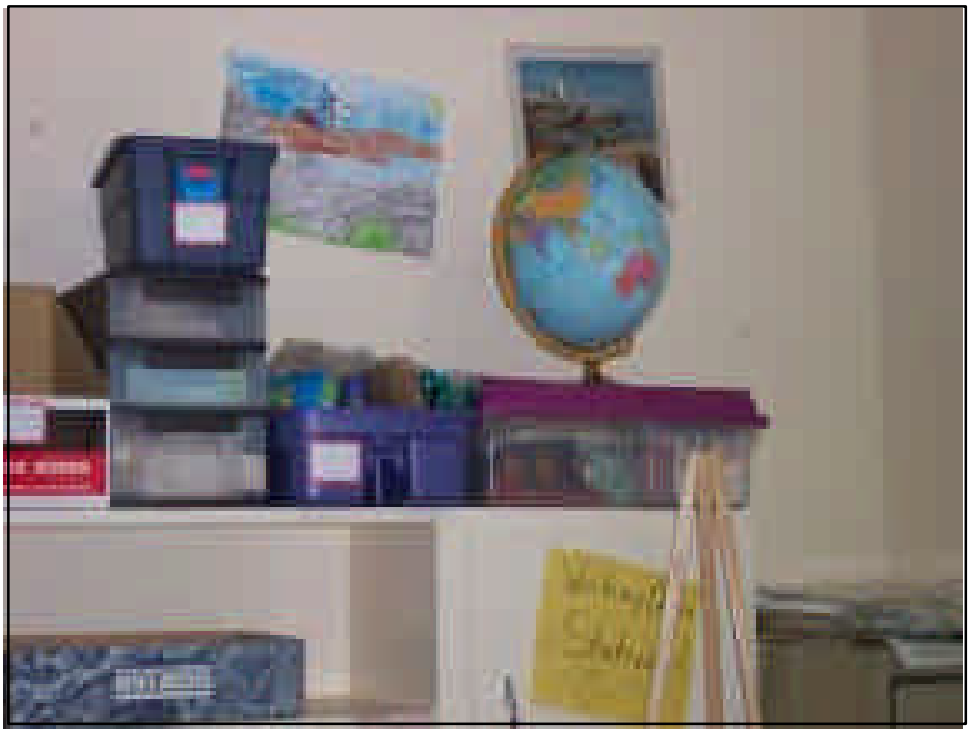
- Glace Bay High School
- Provincial
- National
- Washington

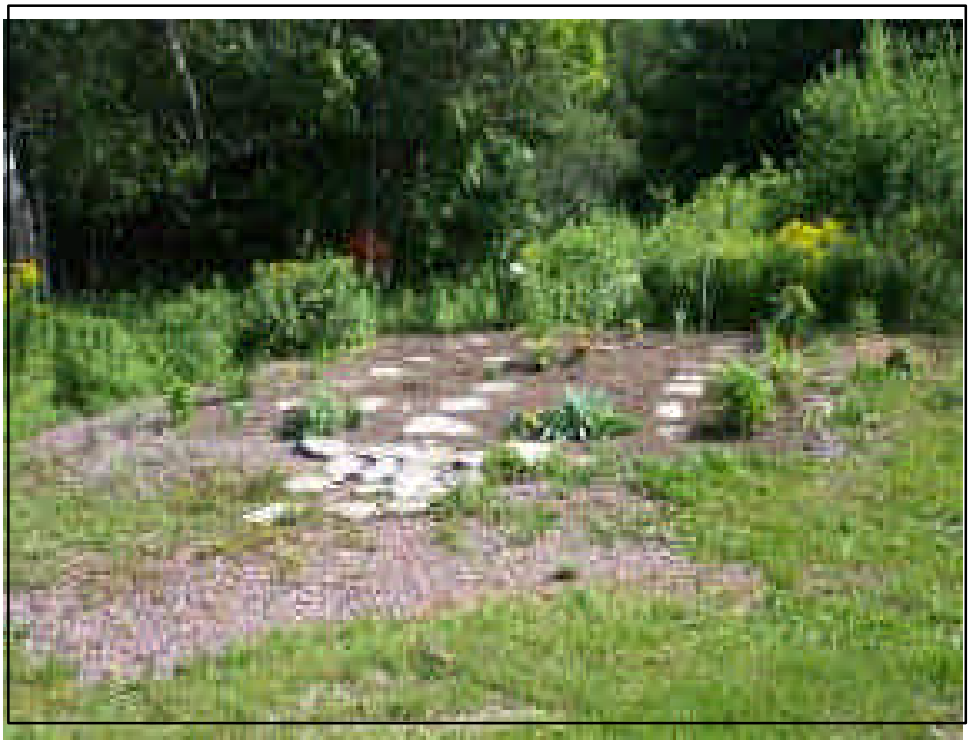
Glace Bay High School

- Relatively new school
- Hundreds of calls and complaints
  - Asthma, headaches, fatigue, dry and irritated eyes, general malaise
- Addressed community perception and staff concerns
  - Student projects
    - Temperature
    - Cleaning products
    - Ventilation system
    - Personal products
  - On-going surveys and communication
  - Smoking education

New School Year Activities

- Paint
- Dust
  - Tops of lights, shelves, posters, drapes, furniture, paper
- Personal protective equipment
  - Mask
  - Change of clothes
- Containers
- Class pets
- Smoke-free campaign
  - Smoking & asthma information



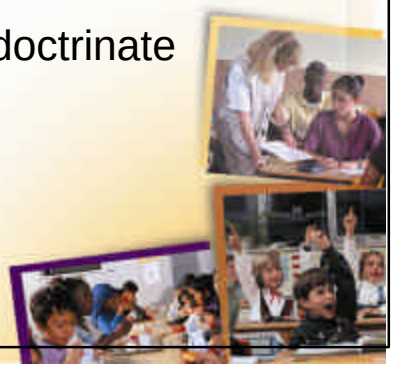


Staff Development

- IAQ Basics
- IAQ Backgrounder
- Change in perspectives
- Diplomacy with custodial staff

Summary

- With each group the process begins anew
- Educate our children - indoctrinate



The Challenge of Implementing *IAQ TfS* in Urban School Districts

Darryl Alexander
American Federation of Teachers
Health & Safety Program Director

Urban School Districts

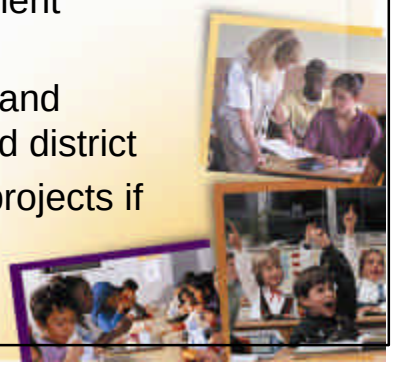
- Chronic state of disrepair
  - Deferred maintenance worse than ever
    - Recent recession
    - Declining tax base

Barriers to *IAQ TfS* Adoption

- Resources and expertise
- Added burden of "No Child Left Behind"
- Parent and community advocacy participation rates low
- High turn-over of superintendents and facility staff
- Miscommunication and strain
- Demoralized staff

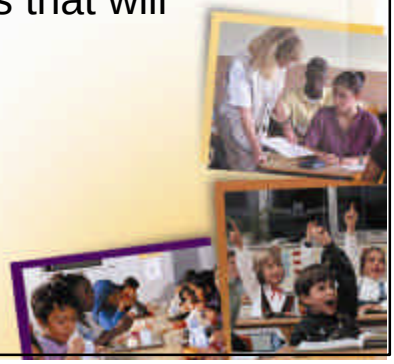
Implementing a Successful Program

- Exercise language on health and safety in teacher and support staff contracts
  - Form joint labor-management committees
  - Provide on-going support and expertise to committee and district
  - Encourage pilot *IAQ TfS* projects if school staff are motivated



Implementing a Successful Program

- Every school is unique
- Work with each school individually to understand the process that will work best



Update on AFT Projects

- Jefferson County Education
  - District description and demographics
  - Evolution of project
  - Rudd Middle School
  - Formation of committee
  - Current programs
    - Green cleaning
    - Mold mitigation
    - *IAQ TfS* committees

Update on AFT Projects

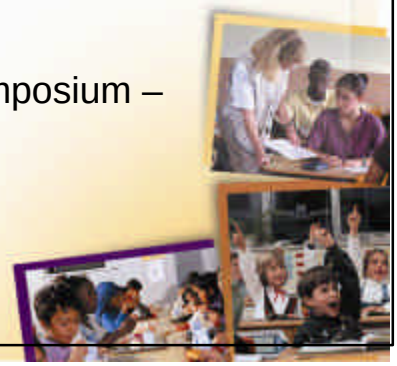
- New Orleans Public Schools
  - Exercising contract language on joint labor-management committee
  - AFT facilitating organizational development of committee
  - Committee will consider recommending policies to superintendent
  - Committee will hold educational sessions for school employees

Update on AFT Projects

- AFT encouraging WTU to exercise health and safety contract language
  - Use it as vehicle to improve IEQ
- Encouraging similar projects in Hartford, CT and possibly Baltimore
  - Presentation to Baltimore Teachers Union building representatives

Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks

- E-mail additional questions to IAQTraining@cadmusgroup.com

- Next Web Seminar
  - Proposed for January
  - Potential Topic: Post Symposium – Now What?