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Monday, January 11, 1999

Bank plagued by fungus

ERICKSON, Man. (CP) -- The fate of a bank closed since December by a mysterious fungus should be known next week.

Officials with the Royal Bank say they're reviewing a consultant's report on the pesky fungus that has plagued their Erickson branch.

The bank, closed for seven months in 1997 because of the problem, was shut down Dec.16, 1998 when the fungus resurfaced.

Bank spokeswoman Lois Anderson said the fungus is confined to two areas of the building.

Services are being provided out of a community centre one day a week as well as another branch 30 kilometres away.

Prolonged exposure to the stachybotrys atra fungus can cause breathing problems.

Last year, the bank's interior was entirely gutted to remove the fungus.



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