

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada

November 9, 2015

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

First of all, we congratulate you on your election as Prime Minister of Canada. We wish you and your government every success in providing sound leadership and policy to meet the many challenges facing Canada and the world.

We applaud the Liberal Party of Canada for having, in 2009, taken a stand opposing the use and sale of asbestos.

The pro-asbestos policy of the previous Conservative government ignored the scientific evidence and caused harm to countless people in Canada and around the world. It brought enormous international condemnation of Canada as a threat to science, public health and international collaboration.

We understand that you and your government have many extremely serious issues to address. However, we call on you to announce in your government's Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament in December that your government will introduce legislation to ban asbestos, as over 50 countries have already done.

Asbestos continues to be the biggest occupational killer of Canadian workers, yet the previous Canadian government rejected appeals from health experts to ban asbestos and allowed the continuing import of millions of dollars' worth of asbestos-containing goods into Canada each year, thus exposing increased numbers of Canadians to harm.

By announcing your government's intention to ban asbestos, you will send a clear message nationally and internationally that the new government of Canada will act with integrity and:

- Will base public policy on scientific evidence
- Will act to protect public health

- Will play a positive leadership role on the international scene in support of the World Health Organization's call to end all use of asbestos
- Will support the listing of chrysotile asbestos as a hazardous substance under the UN Rotterdam Convention

We have much expertise on the scientific level, the practical level and the human level with regard to protecting populations from asbestos harm and providing support and justice for those who have already been harmed. We offer to you our full and sincere collaboration.

We look forward to opportunities to work with your government to help end the terrible and unnecessary tragedy that asbestos has caused in Canada and around the world.

We strongly hope that the Speech from the Throne will include a commitment by your government to introduce legislation to ban asbestos.

Sincerely,

(Note: Please respond to Kathleen Ruff, kruff@bulkley.net)

ORGANISATIONS AND CONTACT PERSONS:

International Commission on Occupational Health, www.icohweb.org. Dr. Jukka Takala, President.

International Society of Doctors for the Environment. Dr. Roberto Romizi, President.

International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN). Dr. Olga Speranskaya, Co-Chair; Manny Calonzo, Co-Chair.

International Ban Asbestos Secretariat. Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator.

JVE International, Lomé, Togo, Africa. Sena Alouka, Director.

Occupational Knowledge International. Perry Gottesfeld, Executive Director.

Corporate Accountability International. Patti Lynn, Executive director.

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), Canada. Kim Perrotta, Executive Director.

Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists. Dr. Christopher Lee, President.

Prevent Cancer Now, Canada. Meg Sears PhD, Chair.

Association Nationale de Défense des Victimes de l'Amiante éÉ National Association for the

Defense of Asbestos Victims (ANDEVA), France. Marc Hindry, Representative.

Canadian Voices Of Asbestos Victims, Canada. Heidi von Palleske, Aurora McAthey, Representatives.

Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India. Mohit Gupta, Coordinator.

Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU). Paul Bastian, National Secretary.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health & Environment Foundation (OSHE). Repon Chowdhury, Representative.

Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Health. Mohit Gupta, Coordinator.

Centro de Análisis y Acción en Tóxicos y sus Alternativas (CAATA), Mexico. Fernando G. Bejarano, Co-ordinator.

Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH). Penchom Saetang, Representative.

Council of Work and Environment Related Patient's Network of Thailand (WEPT). Penchom Saetang, Representative.

BC Building Trades Council, British Columbia, Canada. Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director.

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), USA. Linda Reinstein, President.

Local Initiative Occupational Safety & Health Network (LION), Indonesia. Dimu Pratama, Representative.

Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI), Sydney, Australia. Dr. Nico van Zandwijk, Representative.

RightOnCanada.ca, Canada. Kathleen Ruff, Director.

Merseyside Asbestos Victims Support Group, Liverpool, UK. John Flanagan, Representative.

Consumers' Association of Penang, Malaysia. S.M. Mohamed Idris, President.

Associazione Medici per l'Ambiente - International Society of Doctors for the Environment Italy (ISDE). Dr. Roberto Romizi, President.

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, Durban, South Africa. Desmond Mathew D'Sa, Co-Ordinator; Goldman Prize Recipient 2014 (Africa).

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, Australia. Soksan Lim, Representative.

Asian Citizen's Center for Environment and Health. Dr. Yeyong Choi, Director.

Asbestos-related Research, Education & Advocacy Fund (AREA Fund), Canada. Tracy Ford, Co-Founder.

The Associated Labor Unions (ALU) and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP). Gerard Seno, National Executive Vice President; Alan Tanjusay, Spokesperson.

Asbestos Victims in Korea, Jiyul Jung, Representative.

Ban Asbestos Pakistan. Co-Founder, Syed Mezab Ahmed.

India Canada Association of Waterloo Region, Canada. Sheela Samat Spohn, Past President.

Globalization Monitor, Hong Kong SAR, China. May Wong, Representative.

People's Training & Research Centre, Vadodara, India. Jagdish Patel,

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Ban Asbestos Network Korea, Seoul, Korea, Dr. Domyung Paek, Representative.

Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong. Omana George, Representative.

Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN). Sugio Furuya, Co-ordinator.

Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Nepal. Ram Charitra Sah, Representative.

Cumbria Asbestos-Related Disease Support (CARDS), UK. Dr. Helen Clayson, Chairperson.

Ban Asbestos Network of India (BANI)-ToxicsWatch Alliance (TWA). Gopal Krishna, Director.

A Walk to Remember Victims of Asbestos, Sarnia, Canada. Stacy Cattran, Leah Nielsen, Founders.

Bangladesh Ban Asbestos Network / B-Ban. Repon Chowdhury, Representative.

National Network on Environments and Women's Health - York University. Anne Rochon Ford, Co-Director.

Busan Committee to Ban Asbestos, Korea. Sangrae Jung, Representative.

Coming Clean, United States. Judith Robinson, Co-Director.

Indonesian Toxics-Free Network. Yuyun Ismawati, Representative.

Rideau Institute, Ottawa, Canada. Peggy Mason, President.

Ban Asbestos Network Japan (BANJAN). Sugio Furuya, Co-ordinator.

Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE), Lagos, Nigeria. Anthony Akpan, President.

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Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA). Juliet Duff, Secretary.

Vancouver, New Westminster and District Building and Construction Trades Council. Josh Towsley, Business Representative.

Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. Jesse Todd, Chair.

Hazards Campaign, UK. Hilda Palmer, Acting Chair & Coordinator, Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, UK.

Vorstand des Bundesverbandes der Asbestose-Selbsthilfegruppen, Germany. Dr. Evelyn Glensk, President.

Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc. Robert Vojakovic, AM, JP, President.

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). Sascha Gabizon, President and Alexandra Caterbow, Representative.

NGO "Terra-1530" (NGO consultative status with United Nations), Republic of Moldova. Petru Botnaru, Executive Director, freelance journalist, Editor, publication "Adevarul" (Truth).

Canadian Environmental Law Association. Fe de Leon, Researcher.

CREPD Cameroon. Gilbert Kuepouo, PhD., Executive Director.

Coalition pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine, Québec. Dominique Bernier, Coordinator.

groundWork - Friends of the Earth South Africa. Rico Euripidou, Representative.

Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK. Graham Dring, Chair.

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Note: Titles and affiliations are given for identification purposes only

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Dr. Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, PhD, MES, Volunteer Education Coordinator, Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN); teacher, Environmental Health, Transformative Higher Education and Policy Change, OISE/UT; United Nations Environmental Program Award (UNEP) for Environmental Stewardship.

Dr. Craig Slatin, Professor of Public Health, Department of Community Health and Sustainability, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Editor, *New Solutions, A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*, USA.

Dr. Francesco Forastiere, MD, PhD, epidemiologist, Rome, Italy.

Bill (W.A.G.) Lawrence, M.Phil; p.g. dip. I.R., Co-ordinator, Tyneside Occupational Health Project; Trustee, England Northern Region Trades Union Congress (TUC) AsbestosVictims Support Group; Specialist health & safety adviser to European Parliament Commission; former secretary, British Health & Safety Society, Whitley Bay, UK.

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Timothy Lash, MES (Master's Degree in Environmental Studies, York U). Formerly with: Science Council of Canada; Environment Canada; Canadian Wildlife Service; Director, Fish & Wildlife Division, P.E.I Dept of Environment; Assistant Director, IUCN Canada Office; Associate, Environment and North, AthenaGlobal (Earth Observation Consultancy), Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Prof. Dr. Lygia T. Budnik, Occupational Toxicology and Immunology, University of Hamburg; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini; European Society for Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Berlin Germany.

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Copy: Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health

Note: Please respond to Kathleen Ruff, kruff@bulkley.net