

Montreal, June 11, 2012

The Honorable Jean Charest, M.N.A.
Premier of Québec
Édifice Honoré-Mercier, 3rd Floor
835 René-Lévesque Blvd. E.
Québec, QC G1A 1B4

Dear Premier Charest:

As the world prepares for Rio+20, we renew our call for you to end government support for the asbestos industry and refuse the loan guarantee that would allow Jeffrey Mine to reopen.

Rio+20 will mark the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the “Earth Summit”). With a green economy theme, the conference is announced as *an historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all.*

The United Nations Environment Program defines green economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. **Promoting the mining and export of Quebec asbestos – a known human carcinogen – is inconsistent with a green economy and sustainable development goals.**

You played a leadership role at the 1992 Earth Summit as Canada’s environment minister. Now, on the occasion of Rio+20, we appeal to you to concretely demonstrate your continued commitment to a green economy by ending government support for the deadly asbestos trade.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Wayne Peppard, Business Representative
Allied Hydro Council of British Columbia

Linda Reinstein, CEO and Co-founder,
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Tracy Ford, Co-founder,
Asbestos-related Research, Education and Advocacy Fund

Anthony Whitston, Chair
Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum (U.K.)

Eric Jonckheere, Co-president
Association belge des victimes de l'amiante (Belgium)

Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, President
Association des médecins spécialistes en santé communautaire du Québec

Marc Hindry, Board Member
Association nationale de défense des victimes de l'amiante (France)

Dr. Najwa Bourawi, President
Association pour la protection de l'environnement et le développement durable de Bizerte
(Tunisia)

Lucie Thibodeau, President
Association pour la santé publique du Québec

Gopal Krishna, Convener
Ban Asbestos Network of India - Toxics Watch Alliance (India)

Dr. Helen Clayson, Chair
Barrow Asbestos-Related Disease Support (U.K.)

Eliezer João de Souza
Brazilian Asbestos Exposed People Association (Brazil)

Rosanne Cohen, Executive Director
Breast Cancer Action Montreal

Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director
British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council

Dr. Éric Notebaert, Board Member
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Suzanne Dubois, Director General
Canadian Cancer Society - Quebec Division

Fe de Leon, Researcher
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Debra Lynkowski, CEO
Canadian Public Health Association

Sheryl Thompson, CEO
Canadian Society of Asbestos Victims

Stacy Cattran, Co-founder
Canadian Voices of Asbestos Victims

Madhumita Dutta, Coordinator
Corporate Accountability Desk - The Other Media (India)

Karel Mayrand, Director General for Québec

David Suzuki Foundation

Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey, Executive Director

Ecological Restorations (Ghana)

Kaitlyn Mitchell, Lawyer

Ecojustice

Bruce Cox, Executive Director

Greenpeace

Lee Loftus, Business Manager

International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers - Local 118

Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator

International Ban Asbestos Secretariat

John Flanagan, Information Officer

Merseyside Asbestos Victim Support Group (U.K.)

Jamie Kneen, Co-Manager

Mining Watch

Christian Simard, Director General

Nature Québec

María Elena Rozas

Pesticide Action Network Chile (Chile)

Javier Souza, Coordinator

Pesticide Action Network Latin America (Argentina)

Diana Daghofer, Co-Chair

Prevent Cancer Now

Dr. Jean Zigby, President of the Environment and Health Committee

Quebec College of Family Physicians

Dr. Ruth Vander Stelt, President

Quebec Medical Association

Kathleen Ruff, Founder and Director

RightOnCanada.ca

Howard Willems, Chairperson

Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Kathy Burns, Director
Science Corps (U.S.A.)

Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja, Senior Advisor
Sustainable Development Policy Institute (Pakistan)

Fernanda Giannasi, Coordinator
Virtual Citizen Network for the Banishment of Asbestos in Latin America