

La Tribune, Dec. 13, 2010 (Translation of article into English)

Amir Khadir has been fooled, says Dr. Jacques Dunnigan

In a letter to the deputy for Mercier, Dr. Amir Khadir, in relation to the recent visit of an Asian anti-asbestos delegation, Dr. Jacques Dunnigan affirms that activists belonging to the anti-chrysotile lobby are willing to use any lie or trickery to advance their cause.

Dr. Dunnigan underlines the fact that a lady who is part of the delegation said she is suffering from mesothelioma as a result of her exposure to asbestos coming from asbestos cement manufacturing activities in the neighborhood where she lived.

"I asked this lady how long ago she had been diagnosed with mesothelioma. In front of five witnesses who accompanied me, she said she had been informed in 2005. I then informed the lady that all pathologists that one could consult would say that, at best, after a diagnosis of mesothelioma, one can only survive for 8-15 months. Her survival for over 5 years, is this a miracle?" Mr. Dunnigan, who met the delegation, asks himself.

Addressing once again the deputy for Solidarity Quebec, Mr. Khadir, Jacques Dunnigan is direct. "I regret to have to tell you quite brutally. Like many others before you, you have been tricked by this kind of deception and I would have hoped that, as a doctor, you could have exercised your critical judgment when facing the deceptive claims of the anti-chrysotile lobby. "

Mr. Dunnigan believes that this is just one example among many others of the strategy often used by the anti-chrysotile lobby to employ all means, including lies, selective quotations, melodramatic staging and refusal to recognize the serious data published in scientific journals. He explained for the benefit of Mr. Khadir that these data indicate that in the absence of amphibole varieties, the safe use of chrysotile at low levels of exposure is not a chimera but a well established and demonstrated reality. He added that these same data show that there is a world of difference in pathogenic potential between chrysotile and amphiboles.

Mr. Dunnigan sent this letter to deputy Khadir on the same day that Mr Khadir tabled in the National Assembly a bill to ban the exploration and mining of asbestos and uranium in Quebec. The bill provides that mining and exploration activities already underway should cease by 31 December 2015 and new activities in this sector could not be undertaken as soon as 30 days had passed after the passage of Bill 491.

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Original article in French: "Amir Khadir a été berné, affirme le Dr Jacques Dunnigan", La Tribune le 13 décembre 2010 <http://www.cyberpresse.ca/la-tribune/economie/201012/13/01-4351910-amir-khadir-a-ete-berne-affirme-le-dr-jacques-dunnigan.php>