

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 / 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,

CFMEU Australia, Sydney, NSW. Brad Parker, National Assistant Secretary.

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.

Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (INA Ban). Dimu Pratama, Representative.

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.

INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS AND HEALTH EXPERTS

Note: Titles and affiliations are given for identification purposes only

Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, Médecin spécialiste en santé publique et médecine préventive; Directeur général du Conseil cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James; Professeur, Département de médecine sociale et préventive, Faculté de médecine, Université Laval; Président du Centre de coopération internationale en santé et développement, Québec. Canada.

Dr. Stanley H. Weiss, MD, FACP, FACE, Professor of Medicine, Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School; Professor of Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health, Newark, NJ, USA.

Dr. Vithaya Kulsomboon, Director of Health & Consumer Protection Programme, Chulalongkom University, Thailand; Coordinator, Thailand Ban Asbestos Network.

Dr. Tim K. Takaro, MD, MPH, MS, Professor and Chair, Masters and PhD Committee, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

Dr. Louise Vandelac, PhD., Professeure titulaire, Institut des sciences de l'environnement et Département de sociologie, Université du Québec à Montréal; Chercheure au CINBIOSE, Centre collaborateur OMS-OPS, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Dr. Charles Levenstein, PhD., M.S.O.H., Professor Emeritus of Work Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Adjunct Professor of Occupational Health, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Dr. Jukka Takala, Adjunct Professor, Dsc, Msc, Bsc, Senior Consultant to Ministry of Manpower Services, Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Singapore; President, International Commission on Occupational Health.

Dr. Fernand Turcotte, MD, MPH, FRCPC, Professor Emeritus of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval, Québec, Canada.

Dr. Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH, Clinician Scientist, Child & Family Research Institute; Professor of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada.

Dr. David Egilman MD, MPH, Clinical Professor Family Medicine, Alpert School of Medicine, Brown University, Attleboro, Massachusetts, USA.

Dr. Yvonne Waterman PhD, LL.M, director, Waterman Legal Consultancy, the Netherlands and of the European Asbestos Forum, based in the Netherlands.

Krishnendu Mukherjee, Barrister Doughty Street Chambers, London, UK.

Mick Holder, CMIOSH, FRSPH, London, UK.

Dr. Benedetto Terracini, Torino, Italy, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology (retired), University of Torino, Italy.

Dr. Barry Castleman, ScD., Environmental Consultant, USA; Author, *Asbestos: Medical and Legal Aspects*.

Dr. Thomas H Gassert, MD, MSc, FACOEM, Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health; University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Medicine; Boston University School of Medicine, Departments of Medicine and Family Medicine; Diplomate: American Board of Preventive Medicine - Occupational Medicine; American Board of Internal Medicine, Acton, MA, USA.

Sunsik Kim, Professor, Fukuyama City University, Majored in Urban Environmental Policy, Hiroshima, Japan.

Ted Smith, International Campaign for Responsible Technology, San Jose, CA, USA.

Dr. Jacalyn Duffin, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FRSC, FCAH, Professor, Hannah Chair of the History of Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Peter Infante, D.D.S., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.E., Peter F. Infante Consulting, LLC; Formerly Director, Office of Standards Review, Health Standards Program, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), Washington, D.C., USA.

Dr. Helen Clayson, MBBS, MD, FRCP, FRCGP, Hon Research Fellow, Centre for Social History of Health and Healthcare, Glasgow, UK.

Dr. Lukas Jyuhn-Hsiarn Lee, MD, MSc, PhD, (Neurology; Environmental and Occupational Medicine); investigator Physician, NIEHS/NHRI, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Health Research Institutes; Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei.

Peter Tighe, CEO, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Australian Government, Sydney NSW , Australia.

Prof. Dr. Xaver Baur, Charite University Medicine, Germany; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini, Italy; European Society for Environmental and Occupational Medicine.

Dr. Marc Hindry, PhD, Professor, Universite de Paris Diderot; Spokesperson, National Association of Asbestos Victims (ANDEVA), France.

Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy, MD, PhD, Professor of Global Health, University of California San Diego, CA, USA; Chair, Ethics & Philosophy Committee, International Society for Environmental

Epidemiology.

Dr. Tushar Kant Joshi, FRCS., FFOM., Director, OEM Programme, Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India; Former Occupational Health Consultant, WHO India; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini; Visiting Professor, Occupational Health, Drexel University, USA.

Dr. Roberto Calisti, MD, Local Unit for Occupational Safety and Health, Civitanova Marche, Italy.

Dr. James Brophy, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Corrado Magnani, MD, Professor of Medical Statistics, Head of the Cancer Epidemiology Unit, University of Eastern Piedmont, Novara, Italy.

M.V.Prajapati, Social worker, Gujarat State, India.

Dr. Colin L. Soskolne, Professor emeritus, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada; Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Health, University of Canberra, Australia; Chair, International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE); Past President, Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Fellow, American College of Epidemiology; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini, Italy.

Dr. David R. Boyd, PhD., J.D., Adjunct Professor, Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University, BC; Former Trudeau Scholar, University of British Columbia; Author, *Cleaner, Greener, Healthier: A Prescription for Stronger Canadian Environmental Laws and Policies* (UBC Press, 2015), Canada.

Dr. Michael Brauer, ScD, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, School of Population and Public Health, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC Canada.

Dr. Daniel Rainham, PhD. in Population Health Science, Director, Environmental Science; Associate Professor and Chair in Sustainability and Environmental Health, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dr. John Calvert, PhD, Adjunct Professor, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

Alec Farquhar, Director, Office of the Worker Adviser, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Karen Gunderson, MPH, CIH, CHMM, Advisor to Indonesia's Local Initiative for OSH Network; Member AIHA Developing World Outreach Initiative; Corporate Industrial Hygienist/Environmental Specialist, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Peggy Mason, President, Rideau Institute; Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament (1989 through 1994); Senior Fellow, The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University; Chair, Advisory Board of the Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance; Chair, Peacebuild, Canada.

Dr. Leslie London, MD, MB ChB, M Med, Public Health professor, Chair of Public Health Medicine, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini.

Jude Kirton-Darling, Member of the European Parliament for the North East, England; member of the UK Labour Party, UK.

Dr. Ken Takahashi, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, IIES, Director of the WHO-CC for Occupational Health, IIES, University of Occupational & Environmental Health, Kitakyushu City, Japan.

Dr. Josette Wier, MD, Smithers, BC, Canada.

Dr. Arthur L. Frank MD, PhD Professor of Public Health and Medicine, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Richard Stephens, now retired, former Research Scientist, UK Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit; now involved with James Lind Alliance project to identify the Top 10 unanswered research priorities in mesothelioma, UK.

Dr. Morris Greenberg, MB, FRCP, FFOM, Former HM Medical Inspector of Factories, UK

Dr. Fiorella Belpoggi, Director, Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center, Ramazzini Institute, Bologna, Italy.

Dr. Margaret Keith. PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Peter J. M. Westerholm, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medical Sciences, Occupational & Environmental Medicine, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Dr. Claudio Chuffan, MD, People's Health Movement (PHM), Vietnam.

Dr. Rajen Naidoo, Associate Professor, Occupational Medicine; Head of Department, Occupational and Environmental Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

Pralhad Malvadkar, Coordinator, Occupational Health And Safety Centre, Mumbai, India.

Dr. Dario Mirabelli, M.D., Epidemiologist, Unit of Cancer Epidemiology, Città della Salute e della Scienza Hospital, Torino, Italy.

Dr. Karen Bartlett, MScOEH, PhD, Professor and MScOEH Program Director, School of

Population and Public Health. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Dr. Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Oncology, University Hospital, Orebro, Sweden.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Weitowitz, MD, Professor emeritus; Former Director, Institute and Outpatient Clinic of Occupational and Social Medicine, University of Giessen, Germany.

Dr. Saloshni Naidoo, MBChB, FCPHM, MMed, PHD, Chief Specialist / Head of Discipline, Public Health Medicine, School of Nursing and Public Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

Myra Taylor, Professor / Research Manager, Discipline of Public Health Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban, South Africa.

Dr. Anne-Emanuelle Birn, MA ScD, Professor of Critical Development Studies and Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, University of Toronto; Canada Research Chair in International Health (2003-2013), Canada.

Dr. Sadhana Prasad, BSc, MD, FRCP(C), FACP(Geriatrics), Internal Medicine/ Specialized Geriatrics, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine (Geriatrics), McMaster University; Director and Founder, Centre for Bone Health, St. Mary's General Hospital (SMGH) Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

Prof. Mohamed F Jeebhay, MBChB, MPH (Occ Med), PhD, Head of Department and Director, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. Trevor Hancock, Hon FFPH, Professor and Senior Scholar, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria, BC, Canada.

Adam Martin, Assistant Professor of Agroecosystems and Development, Centre for Critical Development Studies, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto at Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Sara K. Taylor, MDCM, FRCPC, Medical Oncologist, BC Cancer Agency, Centre for the Southern Interior, Kelowna, BC, Canada.

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.

Dr. Aiwerasia Vera Ngowi, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Richard Haffey, President, Mystic Air Quality Consultants, an industry safety, health and training company, Connecticut, USA.

Dr. Celeste Monforton, DrPH, MPH, Professorial Lecturer, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, Washington DC USA.

Hans Kratz, Med, RSOH, ICEM, Qualicum Beach, BC, Canada.

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.

Dr William K Evans, Professor Emeritus, Department of Oncology, McMaster University; Former President Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Copy: Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health

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