

Prof. Paul Shrivastava
John Molson School of Business
Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

November 24, 2015

Dear Prof. Shrivastava,

First of all, we congratulate you on your appointment as Executive Director of [Future Earth](#), a major global scientific initiative, committed to making full use of science and technology to inform equitable, sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues currently confronting humankind. We note that Concordia University is [one of five centres around the world housing the initiative](#).

We fully support the statement by Future Earth that its mission is to achieve a world where decision-making is informed by the best available scientific evidence and knowledge.

We are concerned that Concordia University's John Molson School of Business commissioned, funded and published a report¹ which states that the scientific evidence supports the use of chrysotile asbestos and that those opposing its use are being irrational and emotional. The report praises a project to export millions of tons of chrysotile asbestos to countries in the global South, particularly India. The scientific information put forward in the report comes directly from the asbestos industry and has been totally rejected as dangerous misinformation by scientists and health authorities in Quebec, Canada and globally and by UN organisations, such as the World Health Organization. The report was written by a consultant to the asbestos industry. This conflict of interest is not disclosed in the report.

The publication of this false scientific information, that will cause societal harm, contravenes academic and ethical standards. It is our opinion that Concordia University, where the Future Earth project is being housed, should demonstrate support for the key values of Future Earth - respect for the best available scientific evidence and knowledge and commitment to helping, not harming, the health of people and the planet.

We therefore request that you support our call for the report to be retracted and for an independent, transparent investigation to be undertaken.

We look forward to receiving your response.

¹ "Lessons from the Quebec Asbestos Industry: Can there be meaningful dialogue and consensus when facts come up against feelings?"

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kjdgqv8d2dtffer/concordia%2C%20lessons%20from%20the%20quebec%20asbestos%20industry%2C%202015.pdf?dl=0>

Sincerely,

ORGANISATIONS

RightOnCanada.ca. Director, Kathleen Ruff.

Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV).

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

Association Nationale de Défense des Victimes de l'Amiante / National Association for the Defense of Asbestos Victims (ANDEVA), France.

Medicina Democratica Onlus. Milan, Italy. President : Dr. Piergiorgio Duca, State University of Milan, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Science.

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

Asbestos Disease Awareness Association (ADAA), USA. President, Linda Reinstein.

Merseyside Asbestos Victims Support Group, Liverpool, UK.

WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future, Germany, France, The Netherlands.

Canadian Voices of Asbestos Victims. Heidi Von Pallese.

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

Canadian Society for Asbestos Victims, Canada. Director, Bob Katzko.

Rideau Institute for International Affairs, Ottawa, Canada. President, Peggy Mason.

AREA Fund (Asbestos-related Research, Education and Advocacy Fund), Canada.

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

Health-Earth, based in Australia and Finland, with co-founders and affiliates in 10 countries.

Prevent Cancer Now, Canada. President, Meg Sears.

Bundesverband der Asbestose-Selbsthilfegruppen / National Association of Asbestos Self-Help Groups, Germany. Dr. Evelyn Glensk, President.

INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS AND HEALTH EXPERTS

Note: Titles and affiliations are given for identification purposes only

Dr. Tran Tuan, Director of Research and Training Centre for Community Development (RTCCD) and standing committee chief of the Evidence-based Health Policy Development Advocacy Coalition (EBHPD), Vietnam.

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. Guadalupe Aguilar Madrid, PhD, Msc, Unidad de Investigación en Salud en el Trabajo, Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI.IMSS, México.

Dr. Jas Singh, PhD, CIH, CEO, JAS International LLC; Past President, Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AIH); Past Director, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA); Past Director, American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH).

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.

Richard Haffey, President, Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Connecticut, USA.

Dr. Éric Notebaert, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Université de Montréal, Québec; Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Canada.

Cuauhtémoc Arturo Juárez Pérez, Master Environmental Health, Profesor de asignatura de la Facultad de Medicina de la UNAM; Miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores; Investigador Asociado C, Unidad de Investigación de Salud en el Trabajo, Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI, Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, México.

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

Dr. Abby Lippman, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, McGill University; Research Associate, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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

Dr. Domyung Paek, MD, MSc, ScD, Professor, Seoul National University, School of Public Health, Korea.

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

Dr. Dario Mirabelli, MD, Unit of Cancer Epidemiology, University of Turin and CPO Piemonte, Turin, Italy.

Dr. Roberto Calisti, MD, Local Unit for Occupational Safety and Health, ASUR MARCHE - National Health Service, Civitanova Marche, Italy.

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

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

Dr. Dario Mirabelli, MD, Unit of Cancer Epidemiology, University of Turin and CPO Piemonte, Turin, Italy.

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

Dr. Pierre Gosselin, MD, MPH, Head, WHO-PAHO Collaborating Center on Environmental and Occupational Health Impact Assessment and Surveillance (INSPQCHUQ-DSP Québec), Québec, Canada.

Prof. Colin Butler, University of Canberra, Australia, Visiting Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University.

Dr. John R. Keyserlingk, MD, MSC, FRCS(C), FACS, Directeur médical | Chirurgien oncologue - VM Médical Medical Director | Surgical Oncologist - VM Medical, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Dr. Vithaya Kulsomboon, PhD, Director of Health Consumer Protection Project, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; Coordinator, Thailand Ban Asbestos Network.

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.

Professor Nico van Zandwijk, University of Sydney, Director, Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Australia.

Soksan Lim, Program Coordinator, APHEDA Cambodia.