

## **Medal of the National Assembly - Amir Khadir highlights the work of anti-asbestos activist**

<http://www.newswire.ca/fr/news-releases/medaille-de-lassemblee-nationale---amir-khadir-souligne-le-travail-dune-militante-anti-amiante-582383751.html>

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This morning, the member for Mercier, Amir Khadir, gave a medal of the National Assembly to Kathleen Ruff, an activist opposing the deadly asbestos industry. Ms. Ruff is particularly known for her opposition to the reopening of the Jeffrey Mine in Asbestos, in 2012.

"The asbestos industry is extremely hazardous to health, everyone knows this. It is even deadly! At a time when the federal government has banned the use of asbestos in the construction of its buildings, it is an honor for me, as a physician, to highlight the work of a woman who stood up relentlessly to political leaders in order that human lives would be given priority over political calculations," said the Member of the National Assembly.

For Mr. Khadir, Ms. Ruff is an example of tenacity. "She has never been afraid to challenge the influence of the asbestos lobby over Canadian policy and she succeeded in making the government take account of the opinion of independent, recognized scientists on the asbestos issue."

"Thanks to the involvement of Quebec scientists, public health experts, some union and political leaders, who demonstrated extraordinary courage and integrity, we were able to defeat the government's plan to make Quebec the second largest exporter of asbestos in the world after Russia. This would have been done at the cost of harm to health of people in poor countries. Fortunately, the mobilization of all these people prevented Quebec from obtaining this sad title. Our historic struggle against asbestos and its lobby groups shows that yes, it is possible to change the world. We must draw inspiration from this for our next battles," Ms. Ruff said.

Unfortunately, as Amir Khadir noted, the battle against asbestos is not finished. "This dangerous substance continues to be found in all kinds of our products, even in children's toys! In ten years, Canada imported \$ 250 million of asbestos and products containing it. We still need people like Ms. Ruff," concluded the Member for Mercier.

SOURCE Québec solidaire

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