



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

**OCT 19 2016**

Ms. Kathleen Ruff  
Founder and Co-Coordinator  
Rotterdam Convention Alliance  
Founder and Director  
RightOnCanada  
kruff@bulkley.net

Dear Ms. Ruff:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 22, July 19 and October 11, 2016, concerning Canada's position on chrysotile asbestos. I regret the delay in responding.

I commend you and the member organizations of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance on your work to protect workers and the public from the dangers of asbestos, and I congratulate you on the honour you received from the National Assembly of Québec. The Government of Canada considers the health and safety of the public to be of paramount importance.

I understand your interest regarding the potential listing of asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. There are presently five forms of asbestos already listed under the Rotterdam Convention, but chrysotile asbestos is not yet listed.

As you know, a consensus was not reached for listing chrysotile asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) in 2015. Canada did not oppose the listing at this meeting. In preparation for COP 8, Canada will review its position regarding the listing of chrysotile asbestos under this agreement. Environment and Climate Change Canada will be seeking stakeholder comments to help inform this country's position. Your name has been included on the Department's stakeholder list.

Canada supports the objective of the Rotterdam Convention, which is to protect human health and the environment by promoting informed decisions about the import and management of certain hazardous chemicals.

Should you have any questions or require further information on matters linked to the Rotterdam Convention, I invite you to contact Ms. Virginia Potter, Director General of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Industrial Sectors, Chemicals and Waste Directorate, at [virginia.poter@canada.ca](mailto:virginia.poter@canada.ca).

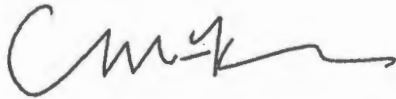
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As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated in May, the Government of Canada has committed to taking action on asbestos. The overall approach to managing asbestos is being reviewed, including the import, manufacture and use of asbestos-containing products in Canada, to identify actions that can be taken using a government-wide approach.

Again, I commend you and the member organizations for the work all of you are doing as part of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance. I appreciate your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of workers and the public.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.