

September 14, 2009

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
Government of Canada
Address

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing to express our continued alarm at the support being given by the Canadian government to the asbestos industry in Canada.

In previous correspondence to you, we noted that the European Union and most developed countries have banned asbestos – a known carcinogen. The global community has named Canada's inaction on this issue as a national disgrace.

Canadian citizens have a right to expect that the federal government will ensure their safety in their communities and in their places of work by proactively addressing known and potential health and safety hazards.

We call upon you to immediately:

- legislate a ban to use or export asbestos
- support listing asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention
- cease funding the Asbestos Institute (currently known as the Chrysotile Institute)
- ensure just transition assistance to workers and communities involved in the asbestos industry
- establish a national registry for asbestos disease
- ensure that people suffering from asbestos-related diseases are justly compensated

This is a public health and workplace safety issue. Canadian lives and others around the world are depending on Canada to do the right thing and eliminate exposure to this dangerous hazard.

We look forward to hearing from you at your very earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Penni Stewart
President

James L. Turk
Executive Director

cc: The Hon. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Opposition
The Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the NDP
M. Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois