



Ban Asbestos Canada

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c/o CUPE
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Member Organizations

Association des victimes de
l'amiante du Québec

British Columbia & Yukon
Territory Building and
Construction Trades Council

Canadian Union of Public
Employees

Canadian Association of
Physicians for the
Environment

Canadian Association of
University Teachers

Canadian Auto Workers

Labour Environmental
Alliance Society

Mining Watch Canada

Provincial Building Trades
Councils of Canada

RightOnCanada

Saskatchewan Federation of
Labour

United Food & Commercial
Workers 1518

Public Service Alliance of
Canada

National Union of Public and
General Employees

British Columbia Government
and Service Employees
Union

International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace
Workers

Canadian Environmental Law
Association

David Suzuki Foundation

**QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES
IN OCTOBER 14 FEDERAL ELECTION**

Background: The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent has been ratified by 122 countries and was ratified by Canada in 2002. It protects human health and the environment by controlling trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides, which increasingly are shipped to poor countries, where there is little information about their hazards.

The Convention's expert scientific body has called for chrysotile asbestos to be put on its list of hazardous chemicals, thus requiring that prior informed consent be obtained before it can be exported to another country. 95% of Canada's chrysotile asbestos is exported to developing countries.

In 2006 the Canadian government refused to allow chrysotile asbestos to be put on the Rotterdam Convention list. At the October 27, 2008 Conference of the Rotterdam Convention the recommendation to list chrysotile asbestos will be again put forward.

QUESTION 1: DO YOU SUPPORT THE LISTING OF CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS UNDER THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION AS A HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL, AS THE EXPERT SCIENTIFIC BODY HAS ASKED?

YES/NO

QUESTION 2: The World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Canadian Cancer Society, as well as many other health organizations, have said that all forms of asbestos are carcinogenic and should be banned. Over 40 countries have banned all forms of asbestos.

Canada continues to export asbestos to poor countries, where regulations and safety precautions are not a reality.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CALL FOR A BAN ON ALL FORMS OF ASBESTOS?

YES/NO

QUESTION 3: The most significant contributor to occupational mortality in Canada is asbestos related disease and yet the majority of such cases are not even captured by provincial compensation boards. This failure has serious consequences for the individual worker and their family as well as for the general public which must cover hundreds of millions of dollars of treatment costs through our health care system that should rightfully to be covered by the compensation insurance system.

DO YOU SUPPORT A MANDATORY REPORTING BY PHYSICIANS AND EMPLOYERS OF ALL CASES OF ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE?

YES/NO