



NDP Responds

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**Attention: Dr. Andréane Chénier
on behalf of Ban Asbestos Canada**

Dear Dr. Chénier,

Thank you for your letter regarding asbestos

Asbestos is the single largest cause of workplace death in Canada, accounting for almost 5,000 death claims since 1996. Yet unlike many other countries, including Germany, Japan and Australia, Canada has yet to ban asbestos use.

Not only has our government fought to continue exporting asbestos, imports of products that contain asbestos, such as brake pads and pipes, are still permitted.

Although the Canadian government finally admitted that all forms of asbestos are carcinogenic this year, the Conservative government is extremely late to recognize the facts. There's absolutely no question that it poses a health risk, and it is Health Canada's job to provide Canadians with accurate information about that risk.

It speaks to how irresponsible this Conservative government is—they followed the lead of the Liberals before them and played down the health risks of asbestos to pander to a small special interest.

In 2012, the NDP moved a motion to urge the government to publish a list of buildings under federal jurisdiction containing asbestos, and support economic diversification for regions that relied on this harmful industry. We have repeatedly called for the government to face the facts, admit the problem, and act to fix it. To this date, they have refused to take any action.

An NDP government would take immediate steps to address the dangers asbestos poses to Canadians, develop a strategy to mitigate risk, while providing alternatives for regions dependent on it.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact us on this important issue.

Tom Mulcair and Canada's NDP