



**MIKE BRADLEY  
MAYOR  
CITY OF SARNIA**

255 N. Christina Street P.O. Box 3018  
Sarnia, ON Canada N7T 7N2  
519 - 332-0330 Ext. 3312 519 - 332-3995 (fax)  
519 - 332-2664 (TTY) [www.sarnia.ca](http://www.sarnia.ca) [mayor@sarnia.ca](mailto:mayor@sarnia.ca)

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., B.A., B.Ed.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

**RE: ASBESTOS**

I am writing to you as Mayor of the City of Sarnia--a community where over a number of decades there was direct exposure to asbestos by thousands of workers which has left a lasting legacy of illness and death.

In this community, instead of cursing the past, we decided we would work hard to bring change to the export of asbestos from Canada and the continued use of asbestos in Canadian workplaces. In 2001 Sarnia was the first city in this country to officially call for a ban on the use of asbestos exports and its use in Canadian workplaces. We ratified that position in 2008. Now, with the election of a new government that was committed to the banning of asbestos, I am calling upon you with a sense of urgency to join the 50 nation ban of asbestos which has the support of the World Health Organization, the Canadian Cancer Society, labour groups and other municipalities across this country.

There is urgency to this request as we move forward on the massive and welcomed infrastructure spending that your government has committed to in the recent budget. The concern is asbestos will show up in the use of building materials and leave a legacy for the future that no community in Canada should ever face as we have in Sarnia.

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Asbestos is the number one killer of Canadian workers. More than 2,200 workers died from asbestos-related diseases between 2007 and 2012. Another 2,000 are diagnosed with these diseases every year, according to the Canadian Cancer Society of Ontario. About 150,000 Canadian construction workers are exposed to asbestos on a regular basis.


At this very moment in time when asbestos is being removed from many of the buildings on Parliament Hill, on behalf of this community and many other Canadians, I call upon you to end the use of asbestos in Canada so future generations are not exposed to this hideous material. Asbestos has caused so much death and destruction in this country. You can now ensure that the next generation does not have a legacy from this generation that will impact on their health and their lives as asbestos has on this generation and past generations.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Bradley  
Mayor of Sarnia



:jmoore