

## Comments from individual supporters

### **Tracey Ford:**

The Asbestos-related Research, Education & Advocacy Fund (AREA Fund) strongly supports the call for an asbestos ban in Canada. We are a small, grassroots, non-profit in BC that supports a wide variety of asbestos-related research, education, and advocacy projects that individuals and organizations are undertaking in Canada. Asbestos is a known carcinogen; it has no known safe exposure limit; there are no cures for the diseases that it creates; and, there are alternative products that can be used, which is why more than 50 other countries have already banned asbestos.

### **Bev Peckford:**

I lost my husband Jerry Lanning to mesothelioma July 31st 2013 I want asbestos banned and I want companies who are using this to be held accountable. Jerry worked on the lake boats and was never warned of the danger. Algoma knew many crew members had died but did not inform anyone else. To this day I am still fighting for fair treatment for Jerry this a promise I made to him before he died and it is a promise I will keep. Anything I can do to ban this once and for all just let me know I can help

### **Laurie Kazan-Allan:**

The International Ban Asbestos Secretariat sends Ban Asbestos Canada greetings of solidarity and support for the August 19 ban asbestos petition. For decades Canada was the world's biggest producer of asbestos. Shipments of deadly fibres went all over the world and left a trail of death and destruction in their wake. At home, the asbestos bullies denied a voice to their victims and maintained a stranglehold on the media which was only permitted to issue positive messages about chrysotile asbestos or "white gold," as it was called. The asbestos profiteers colluded with the Canadian and Quebec governments to create a climate in which sales of their fibre could and did flourish. No one got sick from exposure to their asbestos was the industry's line. And yet, Canadians, like every other nationality, did contract cancers and respiratory diseases from their asbestos exposures. Canada has an obligation not only to apologize for its lies and collusion but to support those it has injured. It should start by banning asbestos and providing the financial and medical support which is so sorely needed by Canadian asbestos victims.

### **Pamela Hughes-Ford:**

We wish to join the petition on banning asbestos. We have represented injured workers with asbestos poisoning and the results are devastating.

### **Azmina Hasham:**

In my work as a Prevention officer, I am constantly encountering building owners, contractors & trades workers who are conducting construction & renovation work activities in buildings that are found to be containing asbestos in the building materials. There is a general lack of knowledge about the hazards of exposure to asbestos fibres. Full scale media blasts are necessary.

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**Gail Robertson:**

We absolutely would like to have asbestos banned from Canada for the sake of all generations.

**Jeannette Mergens:**

I do support banning asbestos mining in Canada.

**George and Gail Nasadyk:**

Please, please! Why not ban the use of asbestos? It is scientifically known that it causes cancer and far too many people die from it. To die from Cancer is one thing but watching a loved one go through the process is another. It is gruelling for the person and the person's family and friends. I know I am going through it now. Why not wake up and think of the long term results of using this horrific product. Please, please ban its use!

**Dorn Cassidy:**

I'm adding my name to the list of Canadians who demand to see a stop to the horrible legacy that Canada has left regarding asbestos, its distribution and the devastation that it has caused to our own citizens and those across the world. My Dad, Lyle Cassidy's life has been robbed as he has been reduced to a struggling survivor of mesothelioma. There's not much left for quality of life for this man and every breathe he takes through his one damaged and partially functioning lung is a horrible reminder of the fact that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. In what way is his suffering going to help others in the future if not by recognizing that a tragic and misguided error in judgment has taken place and it needs to be rectified as soon as possible.

**Hugh W Davies:**

To the Leaders of Canada's Political Parties: The Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH) wholly supports the call by the Ban Asbestos Canada Network for an asbestos ban and comprehensive asbestos strategy for Canada. Prior to the October 19th Federal election we call on all political parties to state their positions on an asbestos ban. In support, we reiterate CARWH's 2005 resolution that concluded: "Be It Resolved that, the Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH) calls upon the federal government to cease its support for the asbestos industry and ban the mining, production and use, as well as, the export of asbestos; and that [it be further resolved] that, CARWH call upon the federal and provincial Quebec government to provide the necessary financial and logistic support for an economically just transition and environmental remediation for the asbestos mining communities." CARWH is a national non-profit association of over 400 researchers, whose mission is to enhance and promote research on work health, safety, and well being in Canada and to advocate for research that fosters a better understanding of how work and work environments may be altered to improve the health, safety, and well-being of Canadians.

## Comments from individual supporters

### **John Millholland:**

On behalf of the Sarnia Local Advisory Committee for the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, the Sarnia & District Labour Council and Unifor Local 848, We fully support the complete ban of the use of any form of Asbestos in Canada and a comprehensive asbestos strategy for Canada.

### **Beatrice Shumey:**

Please include my name in the campaign to support the ban on asbestos. Too many workers have already paid the price. No need for more sacrifices.

### **Geraldine Prouten:**

I support a ban on asbestos. Its use causes unnecessary illness to thousands. Canada has other materials which can be used safely. We should do so and support the same throughout the world. Protect our workers and homes from this caustic material.

### **Al Williams:**

3 years ago I lost a friend to mesothelioma. He was 71 yrs of age, never smoked anything in his life. He was a drywall taper / finisher, and his demise was attributed to breathing the dust from sanding the drywall while not wearing a mask during the first years of working in the trade. I myself was diagnosed with lung cancer 2.5 yrs. ago and had a lower right lobectomy. I had been a cigarette smoker for many years so the doctors say this was the cause, even though the C.T. scans still show asbestos being present.

### **Merrill James O'Donnell:**

The BC Building Trades Council that represents thousands of unionized building and construction workers in British Columbia and the Yukon Territories strongly supports the proposed ban on asbestos as detailed in the attached letter. Do not hesitate to contact the Council if further details or support are required.

### **Danny Bohaychuk:**

Good day. I am lending my support to AREA Fund for the petition to Ban asbestos in Canada. My Dad lost his fight to Mesothelioma two years ago, and he was a fit healthy senior who deserved to have many more years rather than die of this awful disease at 77 years old. He contracted this disease from his job with the Government of Canada, working on the DEWLINE as a meteorological inspector for a few years. He retired and enjoyed only 22 years of retirement when the disease appeared and he should have had many more years of retirement to spend with family and friends and just to enjoy life. It was very tough to lose my Dad, and there are 5 children left grieving for him as well as many grandchildren and a brand new great grandchild, who was born 7 months after my Dad passed away, so he never got to meet him. So I totally lend my support to this ban of this awful disease.

### **Gayle Cassidy:**

We have a story that should be heard by those in power. My husband acquired Mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure. We worked hard all our lives and we were looking forward to retirement. Now all we can do is try to live out this nightmare life we are left with. I cannot put the past two years on paper for you to know how this product

## Comments from individual supporters

has destroyed our whole family and the expense we have had to absorb and will be dealing with for the rest of our lives. My husband is suffering daily and has virtually no quality of life. Please stop allowing this country to produce and use a product that affects everyone it comes in contact with.

### **Chris McLeod and Mieke Koehoorn:**

The Partnership for Work, Health and Safety ([www.pwhs.ubc.ca](http://www.pwhs.ubc.ca)) at the University of British Columbia calls on Canada's political parties to support a complete ban on asbestos in Canada. Our research has investigated the effects of asbestos exposure on British Columbian workers for the past decade, including the increasing incidence of asbestosis, a fibrotic lung disease caused by exposure to respirable asbestos fibres; workers' compensation rates for mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos exposure; and reasons why compensation for mesothelioma may not be sought by workers. We believe that all forms of asbestos cause cancer, that there is no safe exposure limit, that protection for workers dealing with the asbestos remaining in our homes and buildings is of paramount importance, and that all uses of all types of asbestos should be banned in Canada.

### **Pam Eike:**

I support the ban of asbestos in Canada not only from a personal standpoint, seeing friends directly affected by mesothelioma but also a professional level for the health of individuals when this is something we can stop to prevent future illness related to asbestos.

### **Tim Staunton:**

This is to confirm my support for a complete ban on asbestos in Canada, including mining and importation. Asbestos is a known health hazard, and there are alternatives that can be used in its place. Too many Canadians are tragically afflicted with and die from asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma and asbestosis. A good second step would be a plan to remove asbestos from public and private buildings. There should also be more public awareness about the dangers of exposure from renovations.

### **Michaela Keyserlingk:**

It is high time for Canada to join the civilized world by banning the import and use of asbestos. Canadian asbestos has caused endless suffering and death not only here but all over Asia and Europe. My husband died an untimely death caused by asbestos used by our Navy. We, his family and all the other families who lost loved ones to asbestos have to know that their deaths were not in vain. Therefore the use of asbestos has to be banned urgently.

### **Heather Marshall:**

My organization, Toronto Environmental Alliance, supports the campaign to ban asbestos in Canada and would like to sign on to this letter. Asbestos is still found in many Toronto buildings putting both the inhabitants and renovation workers at risk. We need to put an end to this toxic legacy in Canada by banning the use and export of this substance and developing a comprehensive plan to transition manufacturing to safe alternatives.

## Comments from individual supporters

### **Phillip Rimmer:**

It was my first really large industry job. Time frame, the nineteen sixties. I wanted to work at Dofasco because I was trying out for their choral group. Poor excuse and or thinking at the time. I was first assigned to work in the scrapyard, but quickly moved to the Ladle repair at the catalytic furnace. The floor of the whole department was silica sand (casting area) and the ladles were repaired using asbestos cement. Each repair required the asbestos cement by hand. The ladles were always so hot that one was shivering inside the ladle. The repairs were done without any complete instructions. The final days (afternoon shift) was when the crane operator dropped of the repaired ladle in the cooling area and he had to go to the other end on the area. The spot where the ladle was placed - the Safety equipment was not working. The 22-ton ladle was filling up with gas because the pilot flame was out. I had seen the lead hand light a piece of paper and throw it at the ladle. I received all of the ladle gas all at once. I inhaled the heated gas and my eyelids were welded shut. I have a COPD which the WSIB said is not work related, but the mass that is within my left lung saya differently. I have, on a good day, 65+% lung volume. The WSIB said that I have Pleural Plaques which is a Fibrous thickening on the lining of the lungs. (Ref Asbestos.com.) Claim denied.

### **Marianne Levitsky:**

I am particularly concerned about the export of asbestos to places that lack the kind of resources we have in Canada to control exposure. You can add my name to the signatories of the letter to the Prime Minister calling for a ban on asbestos.

### **Renee Guay:**

I am writing to include my name on the letter being sent to the Prime Minister. I have watched my father struggle and pass away from Mesothelioma in November, 2011 when he didn't even realize he was being exposed to asbestos at work. My uncle was diagnosed last year with asbestosis. I work in the construction field overseeing health and safety and inspect asbestos abatement removals. I have witnessed several very concerning practices over the years on how asbestos is removed. Workers and co-workers continue to be exposed every day. Mesothelioma is the number one occupational illness in Ontario. Mr. Trudeau, since you will not move into the 24 Sussex Drive residence, you recognize the repercussions of how breaching asbestos could affect you or your family, so I encourage you to be the voice for all Canadians to implement much needed changes for positive forward movement.

### **Margaret Guay:**

I would like to add my name and that of my husband's name in support of banning asbestos production in Canada. My husband's brother contracted mesothelioma while working at General Motors in St. Catharines, Ontario. He suffered horribly for seven months and died a painful death, going from a very healthy middle age man to a ghostly skeleton.

### **Dorothy Guay:**

## Comments from individual supporters

I want to see a ban on asbestos now! Have you ever watched someone who is healthy, happy and vibrant go downhill, that his own mother does not recognize her own son? That is what happened to my husband on his deathbed on November 6, 2011. He had the worst case of asbestos cancer. Cancer of the lining of the lung (Mesothelioma). It robs a wonderful human being of their dignity. John my husband died a grueling death of extreme pain, 8 out of 10 for 7 months, and 10 being the worst. The doctors at that time could not keep his pain at a decent level because there was nothing out there to keep the pain in check. At his time of death he suffocated. I am begging and demanding that the Government of Canada stop importing asbestos products. There are lots of companies who can make products that are asbestos free and not harm human life. If the government really cares about its people than how can they import these products that have asbestos in them. Knowing full well that this will bring a horrible insidious death upon them. This does not need to happen in this day and age!

### **Marion Burton:**

Let it be known that we support with great conviction a ban on asbestos in Canada. Peterborough is a small city with a huge legacy of old industry in which asbestos was used extensively – General Electric, Outboard Marine, Raybestos and other manufacturing shops. Hundreds of Peterborough workers and/or their family members have suffered illness and death due to exposure to asbestos products in the workplace. Please add our organizations as endorsements on your letter to Prime Minister Trudeau. Thanks you for taking the lead on such a critical issue of health for the people of Canada.

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