

AVAQ

Montreal, September 1st, 2004.

The Right Hon. Paul Edgar Phillippe Martin
Prime Minister
House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada
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fax: 613 941 6900/tel: 613 992 4211

(cc.: Members of the Ministry)

Subject: Chrysotile : Environment in Québec and the Rotterdam Convention PIC list.

Mr. Prime Minister Martin,

As we consider the environmental situation in the Thetford-Mines area and the present opposition of the Canadian Government to the inclusion of chrysotile on the PIC list, to be untenable, we will hold a press conference shortly to alert the public to these matters.

We have also decided to support an international campaign of information and protest about the Canadian opposition to the inclusion of chrysotile on the PIC list.

Nevertheless, it would make us very happy if we could announce a change of position from the Canadian Government concerning the PIC list. We would also like to congratulate the Government for its concern for the people and the environment of Thetford-Mines.

Our best regards,

Asbestos Victims Association of Québec (AVAQ)
Richard Rousseau, Micheline Marier, Roch Lanthier

INFORMATION SHEET

CHRYSOTILE DANGEROUSLY POLLUTES THE AIR OF THETFORD-MINES HOUSES

We sampled houses in Thetford-Mines to evaluate the concentration of asbestos fibers in the air. Results so far, are worrisome. Final data will be disclosed at the press conference..

AMONGST THE WOMEN OF THE CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES AREA, THE INCIDENCE OF MESOTHELIOMA, A FATAL ASBESTOS CANCER, IS BY FAR THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

Data from « *The Epidemiology of Asbestos-related Diseases in Quebec* » The National Institute of Public Health of Quebec. 2003

CANADA OPPOSES THE INCLUSION OF CHRYSOTILE ON THE PIC LIST. THIS LIST INFORMS COUNTRIES OF THE DANGERS OF THE SUBSTANCES INCLUDED IN IT

THE USE OF ASBESTOS, INCLUDING CHRYSOTILE, IS BANNED OR SERIOUSLY RESTRICTED IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BECAUSE ITS SAFE USE IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNREALISTIC

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ESTIMATES THAT OVER 100 000 PEOPLE/YEAR DIE FROM OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES RELATED TO ASBESTOS.

CANADA EXPORTS AND PROMOTES THE USE OF CHRYSOTILE IN POOR COUNTRIES WHERE APPROPRIATE CONTROLS AND REGULATIONS ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED

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