

The Right Hon. Paul Edgar Philippe Martin, P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister

Parliament Hill: House of Commons

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Chrysotile (White Asbestos): Environment and Rotterdam Convention PIC list.

Dear Mr Martin,

We (I) join the international campaign of support for the inclusion of chrysotile on the PIC list of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for the following reasons:

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates the number of work-related asbestos deaths worldwide as 100,000 every year; Dr. Jukka Takala of the ILO admits that this figure could under-estimate the problem by more than 40%.

In addition to the epidemic created by occupational exposure to asbestos, environmental and domestic exposure has caused others to suffer from a range of debilitating and fatal diseases.

More than 90% of global asbestos consumption is chrysotile (white asbestos); Canada is one of the world's largest chrysotile producers exporting more than 95% of the annual fiber output.

The use of asbestos, including chrysotile, is banned or seriously restricted in most industrial countries because its safe use is considered to be unrealistic

At the same time as asbestos is being removed from government buildings on Capital Hill, Ottawa, proposals to promote the use of chrysotile in Canadian public buildings and infrastructures are being considered; abroad Canadian asbestos stakeholders are aggressively promoting the use of chrysotile in developing countries where appropriate controls and regulation do not exist.

Canada promotes the sale of chrysotile through the Montreal-based Asbestos Institute (AI); between 1984-2001, the AI received a total of \$54 million, two thirds of which came from public funds. The President of the AI, Clément Godbout, is also a member of the Board of MAZARIN a company entirely dedicated to the sale of chrysotile.

Canada opposes the inclusion of chrysotile on the UN PIC list. The list informs countries of the dangers of the products included on it.

We call on the Canadian Government to ban the export of asbestos; withdraw its financial and political support from the Asbestos Institute; work with the communities involved to ensure a just transition for asbestos workers and affected communities and lobby for a world wide ban on the use of asbestos, and as an immediate measure:

SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF CHRYSOTILE ON THE PIC LIST

Sincerely,

M en C. Guadalupe Aguilar Madrid

Investigadora Asociada "B"

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