

# International Ban Asbestos Secretariat

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*Voice of the global ban asbestos network!*



The Hon Mike Rann MP  
Premier of South Australia  
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December 17, 2010

Dear Premier Rann:

I have learned that the state of Southern Australia has earlier this month awarded Quebec Premier Jean Charest a prize for his pro-active stance on climate change. In his honor, you will be naming a forest after him.

Considering Premier Charest's support for the asbestos industry, it seems more appropriate that a cemetery be named after him; indeed he and other Quebec politicians have supported Quebec's asbestos industry for generations. Their political and economic backing has ensured that Quebec remained one of the world's leading providers of asbestos, a substance which is a proven carcinogen, for a hundred years.

Currently, the Quebec government is considering plans to provide a \$58 million loan guarantee so that a new asbestos mine can be opened in Quebec. Should this loan be forthcoming, millions of tonnes of asbestos will be sent from Quebec to low-income countries, the majority of which are in Asia. Is this really the type of behavior your Government condones?

Australia knows full well the consequences of hazardous exposures to asbestos as thousands of your citizens are dying from asbestos-related diseases every year. Do you really think it is acceptable for thousands of Asian citizens to die in the decades to come from exposure to Quebec asbestos?

As the European Representative of the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia, one of the world's most effective asbestos victims' support groups, I appeal to you to change your mind and rescind this honor until such a time that Premier Charest rejects the loan guarantee proposal and bans the production, sale and export of asbestos in Quebec. I am sure there are more deserving recipients of this prize than someone pedaling death around the world on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

*Laurie Kazan-Allen*

Laurie Kazan-Allen (Mrs.)  
IBAS Coordinator