



## Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)

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Z Bldg. 5F, Kameido 7-10-1, Koto-ku, Tokyo, 136-0071, Japan  
Phone +81-3-3636-3882, Fax +81-3636-3881  
E-mail [2009aban@gmail.com](mailto:2009aban@gmail.com)

**BY FAX: 1 (418)643-3924**

November 23, 2010

Premier Jean Charest,  
Assemblée nationale,  
Québec

Dear Premier Charest:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to you and your government and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you. We believe this is an urgent matter and that you have a responsibility to hear us, since the people in our countries are the ones who will pay the price for this decision.

Your Minister of Economic Development, Clément Gignac, has indicated that he is in favour of giving \$58 million financing to the anonymous consortium of investors that wishes to open the Jeffrey mine and export asbestos to the developing world. Minister Gignac has said, however, that if there is not clear, reliable evidence that the asbestos exported by Québec causes no harm to health of people in the developing countries, the financing will not be given.

We trust that this is an honest commitment.

The Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and Québec's respected public health organizations and experts have, with one voice, asked you not to finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Québec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Québec is medically unacceptable.

Our delegation will include representatives of the world-wide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience as to whether asbestos use causes harm to health of people in our countries.

If Minister Gignac's commitment is a genuine one, we believe it is incumbent upon you to meet with us and hear us.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new

asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Québec's reputation, for your government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners.

We hope you will agree to meet with us. We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French.

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (819) 879-2343**

November 23, 2010

Mayor Hughes Grimard  
Mayor,  
Asbestos, Québec

Dear Mayor Grimard:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the government and people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We would like to meet with the people of Asbestos so that they may hear our views and that we may hear theirs.

We understand that the people of the town want to fight for jobs for the future well-being of citizens and the community and this is a reasonable and desirable thing to do. It is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

Our delegation will include representatives of the world-wide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world.

We would be glad if you would offer us an invitation to come to your town. One or two members of our delegation would be able to come to the town of Asbestos on the afternoon of Thursday, December 9.

We look forward to receiving your response. We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French.

Best regards,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (514) 939-0777**

November 26, 2010

Baljit Singh Chadha  
Balcorp Limited  
Montréal, Québec

Dear Mr Chadra:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Québec government and the people of Québec not to finance the Jeffrey mine.

We are extremely upset that you are the leading investor of the anonymous consortium of investors who have offered \$15 million to buy the mine outright, on condition that the Quebec government provide financing of \$58 million.

We know that you are a generous donor to Quebec universities and we assume this indicates a respect on your part for independent, reputable scientific knowledge.

We are therefore absolutely appalled and dismayed that you do not respect the independent, reputable science that chrysotile asbestos is hazardous to health, that safe use is impossible and that it should be banned. Instead, you have chosen to support the views of the registered lobby group for the asbestos industry, the Chrysotile Institute, which has no scientific credibility whatsoever and, clearly, has a vested interest in selling asbestos.

Can you give us the reason why you refuse to listen to Québec's respected scientific authorities – the Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Québec Public Health Association, to name just a few – who have all stated that export of asbestos is medically unacceptable and causes grave harm to the health of people overseas? With one strong, unanimous voice, they have asked the government not to finance the Jeffrey mine.

Why do you refuse to listen to reputable science?

The International Trade Union Confederation, which represents 175 million workers in 151 countries, has called for a global ban on asbestos. Trade unions in India have made a specific appeal for Québec to end its export of asbestos.

Can you give us the reason why you refuse to listen to the call from workers around the world to stop the use of chrysotile asbestos? As you probably know, chrysotile asbestos represents 100% of the global asbestos trade and 95% of all asbestos that has ever been traded.

Why do you refuse to listen to the voice of the world trade union movement?

We believe that ignoring independent, reputable science, and instead supporting a lobby group with a conflict of interest, is indefensible conduct for a person who supposedly supports academic excellence.

We believe that aiding and seeking to expand the export of asbestos from Quebec is an act that brings dishonour on your reputation.

We request a meeting with you in Montreal on December 7 or 10 so that you may hear our concerns. Please let us know as soon as possible whether you will meet with us

Yours truly,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (418) 643-2957**

November 24, 2010

Pauline Marois  
Chef du Parti Québécois  
Assemblée nationale,  
Québec

Dear Pauline Marois:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Québec government, the Québec political parties and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you and the Parti Québécois caucus. This is an urgent matter and we hope you will not refuse to meet us. The people in our countries are the ones who will pay the price, if the anonymous consortium of investors is given the \$58 million financing they have requested from the Québec government.

An essential principle of democracy and social justice is that those who will be affected most by a decision have the right to be heard.

The Minister of Economic Development, Clément Gignac, has set as a condition for giving the requested financing that there must be clear, reliable evidence that the asbestos exported by Québec causes no harm to health of people in developing countries. As you know, Québec does not use the asbestos it mines, but exports it to the Global South, mostly to Asia.

As we are sure you also know, the Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and Québec's respected public health organizations and experts have, with one voice, asked that the government not finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Québec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Québec is medically unacceptable.

Our delegation will include representatives of the world-wide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience as to whether asbestos use causes harm to health of people in our countries.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Québec's reputation, for the Québec government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners.

We deeply hope that you and the Parti Québécois caucus will agree to meet with us. We would like to meet with you at the National Assembly on December 8 or 9. Please would you kindly let us know your response as soon as possible.

We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French and await your reply with hope.

Respectfully,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (418) 528-9479**

November 23, 2010

G rard Deltell  
Chef, Action d mocratique du Qu bec  
Assembl e nationale,  
Qu bec

Dear G rard Deltell:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Qu bec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Qu bec government, the Qu bec political parties and the people of Qu bec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you and the Action d mocratique du Qu bec caucus. This is an urgent matter and we hope you will not refuse to meet us. The people in our countries are the ones who will pay the price, if the anonymous consortium of investors is given the \$58 million financing they have requested from the Qu bec government.

An essential principle of democracy and social justice is that those who will be affected most by a decision have the right to be heard.

The Minister of Economic Development, Cl ment Gignac, has set as a condition for giving the requested financing that there must be clear, reliable evidence that the asbestos exported by Qu bec causes no harm to health of people in developing countries. As you know, Qu bec does not use the asbestos it mines, but exports it to the Global South, mostly to Asia.

As we are sure you also know, the Qu bec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and Qu bec's respected public health organizations and experts have, with one voice, asked that the government not finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Qu bec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Qu bec is medically unacceptable.

Our delegation will include representatives of the worldwide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience as to whether asbestos use causes harm to health of people in our countries.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of

their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Quebec's reputation, for the Québec government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners.

We deeply hope that you and the Action démocratique du Québec caucus will agree to meet with us. We would like to meet with you at the National Assembly on December 8 or 9. Please would you kindly let us know your response as soon as possible.

We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French and await your reply with hope.

Respectfully,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (418) 529-6323**

November 25, 2010

François Vaudreuil, Président  
La Centrale des syndicats démocratiques  
Québec

Dear François Vaudreuil:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Québec government, the Québec trade unions and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you and representatives of the CSD.

La Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI/ITUC), of which the CSD is part, is campaigning for a global ban on asbestos. Trade unions in India have made a specific appeal to the union movement in Québec and Canada to support an end to Québec's export of asbestos to Asia and elsewhere. We appeal for your solidarity.

Please listen to your brothers and sisters in the trade union movement around the world.

The world scientific community is also clear that chrysotile asbestos is deadly, that safe use is impossible and that it should be banned. Québec's own scientific authorities – the Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Québec Public Health Association, to name just a few - have, with one voice, asked that the government not finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Québec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Québec is medically unacceptable.

Please listen to Québec's own independent, reputable health experts.

Our delegation will include representatives of the worldwide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience regarding the use of asbestos in our countries.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Québec's reputation, for the Québec government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners in Asbestos.

We would like to meet with you and other CSD officials in Québec City on either December 8 or in the afternoon of December 9. Please would you kindly let us know your response as soon as possible.

We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French and await your reply with hope.

In solidarity,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (514) 598-2052**

November 25, 2010

Claudette Carbonneau, Présidente  
Confédération des syndicats nationaux  
Montréal, Québec

Dear Claudette Carbonneau:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Québec government, the Québec trade unions and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you and representatives of the CSN.

La Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI/ITUC), of which CSN is part, is campaigning for a global ban on asbestos. Trade unions in India have made a specific appeal to the union movement in Québec and Canada to support an end to Quebec's export of asbestos to Asia and elsewhere. We appeal for your solidarity.

Please listen to your brothers and sisters in the trade union movement around the world.

The world scientific community is also clear that chrysotile asbestos is deadly, that safe use is impossible and that it should be banned. Québec's own scientific authorities – the Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Québec Public Health Association, to name just a few - have, with one voice, asked that the government not finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Québec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Québec is medically unacceptable.

Please listen to Quebec's own health experts.

Our delegation will include representatives of the worldwide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience regarding the use of asbestos in our counties.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It

is our view, however, that financing an anonymous consortium of investors to open a new asbestos mine and export asbestos to the developing world is not the solution.

We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Québec's reputation, for the Québec government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners in Asbestos.

We would like to meet with you and other CSN officials in Montreal in the afternoon of either December 7 or 10. Please would you kindly let us know your response as soon as possible.

We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French and await your reply with hope.

In solidarity,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (514) 383-8038**

November 25, 2010

Michel Arsenault, Président  
La Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec  
Montréal, Québec

Dear Michel Arsenault:

I am writing to you on behalf of a delegation of persons in Asia who will be coming to Québec at the beginning of December to appeal to the Québec government, the Québec trade unions and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new asbestos mine (the Jeffrey mine).

We request a meeting with you and representatives of the FTQ.

La Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI/ITUC), of which the FTQ is part, is campaigning for a global ban on asbestos. Trade unions in India have made a specific appeal to the union movement in Québec and Canada to support an end to Quebec's export of asbestos to Asia and elsewhere. We appeal for your solidarity.

Please listen to your brothers and sisters in the trade union movement around the world.

The world scientific community is also clear that chrysotile asbestos is deadly, that safe use is impossible and that it should be banned. Québec's own scientific authorities – the Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Québec Public Health Association, to name just a few - have, with one voice, asked that the government not finance the Jeffrey mine, saying that export of asbestos by Québec harms the health of people overseas. They have clearly stated that the mining and export of asbestos by Québec is medically unacceptable.

Please listen to Quebec's own independent, reputable health experts.

Our delegation will include representatives of the worldwide trade union movement, victims of asbestos and health activists fighting for a ban on asbestos in Asia and around the world. We have direct knowledge and experience regarding the use of asbestos in our counties.

We understand that the people of the town of Asbestos want jobs for the future well being of their citizens and community. This is completely reasonable and desirable and we support it. It

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We believe it would make more sense, would avoid harming people overseas and would avoid bringing dishonour on Québec's reputation, for the Québec government to invest the \$58 million in creating alternative economic development in the mining community and to assist the remaining 250 miners in Asbestos.

We would like to meet with you and other FTQ officials in Montreal in the afternoon of either December 7 or 10. Please would you kindly let us know your response as soon as possible.

We are sorry that we are not able to write to you in French and await your reply with hope.

In solidarity,

On behalf of A-BAN and its delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)

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**BY FAX: 1 (819) 879-2343**

December 5, 2010

Mayor Hughes Grimard  
Asbestos, Québec

Dear Mayor Grimard:

I am very disappointed to be informed by a newspaper article<sup>1</sup>, not directly from you, that you have refused to meet us, the Asian Solidarity Network to Quebec.

In a newspaper article, you make the accusation that we are being paid by manufacturers of substitute synthetic fibres.

This is a groundless and unacceptable accusation. It is offensive and insulting. It is especially hurtful to the members of the delegation whose lives have been destroyed by asbestos.

We strongly demand your retraction of the statement and that you make a public apology to us.

Asbestos victims groups, the international and the Canadian trade union movement, health organizations and other grass roots groups in Asia and other parts of the world are supporting and contributing to our visiting Quebec. So we could come such a distance. They believe it is crucial that our voices be heard.

We believe this is an urgent matter and that you have a responsibility to hear us, since the people in our countries are the ones who will pay the price for this decision to develop new Jeffrey asbestos mine.

Our delegation will include representatives of asbestos victims and their families, trade union

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movement, health experts fighting against asbestos disaster in Asia. We are the best delegation to tell the real situation in this region.

I am still hoping to hear directly from you.

On behalf of the Asian Solidarity Delegation to Québec  
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)  
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)