



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

May 7, 2009

Michael Ignatieff
Leader, Liberal Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
via email: IgnatM@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Ignatieff,

Re: Banning Asbestos and Just Transition for Workers in Quebec

The Canadian Environmental Law Association is a proud member of Ban Asbestos Canada (BAC), a coalition of labour, public health, environmental and human rights groups, academic and scientific experts, and concerned citizens, victims and their families. BAC seeks to provide just compensation to those affected by asbestos, establish a national registry of asbestos diseases and provide a just transition to those still working in the asbestos industry.

A central reason for our membership in Ban Asbestos Canada is its dedication to a world-wide ban on all types of asbestos and support for the Rotterdam Convention and other UN Conventions and Programs aimed at controlling the international trade in hazardous substances, such as asbestos. Canada must take responsibility for the impact of its long-standing promotion of this deadly substance in Canada and abroad.

We were absolutely delighted therefore to learn of your recent statements reiterating your position that Canada should cease exporting chrysotile asbestos and your proposal to ensure a transition strategy for workers in Quebec. We sincerely hope that this is now the position of the Liberal Party of Canada and we look forward to supporting your advocacy in Parliament for banning asbestos exports and just transition for workers in Quebec.

Thank you for inspiring leadership on an issue that is an international embarrassment for Canada that must come to an end.

Yours truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Theresa McClenaghan
Executive Director and Counsel