Dec 7, Tokyo, Japan

Members of Japanese Asbestos victim and families, in front of Canadian Embassy in Tokyo
Dec 7, Seoul, Korea

In front of Canadian Embassy and Quebec Trade office in Seoul
Dec 9, Delhi, India,
Dec 9, HongKong
Dec 9, London, United Kingdom
Dec 9, Manila, Philippines
Le Québec ?

« Quelque arpents de neige et d’amiante »

VOLTAIRE (Candide, 1758)
Dec 10, Mumbai, India
Des photos embarrassantes pour une mine québécoise

Oct 9, La Prasse, Montreal, Canada
All asbestos kills. That’s why over 50 countries have banned it, and why the World Health Organization has called for an end to its use. That’s why no industrialized country, including Canada, uses it. That’s why we spend millions of dollars removing it from our schools, hospitals and homes.

But Canada still exports asbestos to developing countries. Stephen Harper is the only national political leader who still supports the export of asbestos.

Prime Minister Harper, stop exporting asbestos disease to the developing world.

Take action today at RightOnCanada.ca
Charest urged to cancel support for asbestos group

Asbestos trade draws more flak

Canadian doctors, British medical journal oppose plan to expand Quebec mine
RELANCE DE LA MINE JEFFREY À ASBESTOS

The Lancet exhorte Québec à ne pas soutenir la mine d’amiante

ISABELLE RACHEY

La reprise économique britannique The Lancet exhorte le gouvernement du Québec à refuser son soutien aux entrepreneurs qui souhaitent relancer l’exploitation de la mine Jeffrey à Asbestos, pour le prétexte suivant.

"The Lancet appelle ce week-end à cesser d’exporter des paires pour un rapport qui vise à démontrer l’utilisation de l’amiante en France. En effet, The Lancet a récemment publié un article où il est indiqué que le gouvernement du Québec a accordé un prêt de 50 millions de dollars à l’entreprise qui souhaite reprendre la mine Jeffrey à Asbestos."
THE LANCET

THE LANCET: Press Release

EMBARGO: 0001H (UK time) Thursday 9 December 2010

LANCET CONDEMN HYPOCRITICAL CANADA AND QUÉBEC GOVERNMENTS FOR EXPORTING DEADLY ASBESTOS TO VULNERABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In a World Report published Online First and in this week’s Lancet, the governments of both Canada and Quebec are condemned by a number of anti-asbestos campaigners and the Canadian Medical Association for exporting asbestos to vulnerable developing countries. Lancet Editor Dr Richard Horton adds The Lancet’s voice to those calling on the Quebec Government not to provide a loan guarantee to a consortium that will revive Canada’s currently dying asbestos exports for another 25 years. The World Report is written by Tony Kirby, Media Relations Manager at The Lancet.

For many years, Canada has been a major exporter of white asbestos or ‘chrysotile’, with other major exporters being Russia, Kazakhstan, and Brazil. But in the past two decades, bans on chrysotile (in addition to those long in force for blue and brown asbestos) have existed, either in law or de facto, in many high-income countries, including the United Kingdom, which banned chrysotile in 1999, and Canada itself, which has not legally banned chrysotile but has a de facto ban. As such, more and more of Canada’s asbestos has been going to developing countries, where few or no protections exist and as such a time-bomb of deadly asbestos-related death and disease will continue to grow. Mesothelioma is a specific lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos, and diagnosis is almost always a death sentence. In the UK, deaths from mesothelioma have climbed from 895 in 1990 to 2,249 in 2008, with no sign of declining, as the effects of workers’ exposure in the 1960s and 70s continue to manifest. Similar trends are occurring in other high-income nations.

Canada’s chrysotile resources have been dwindling. However, an Indian-led consortium (led by Montreal-based financier Baljit Chadha) is now planning to convert the recently closed Jeffrey Mine in Quebec from open pit to underground, which would see Canada produce and export some 10% of the world’s asbestos again. Protests are ongoing in London (9 Dec), Quebec, and Asian cities against the Quebec and Canada governments to stop the loan guarantee being given. In London, a coalition of UK anti-asbestos groups are protesting against the reopening of the Jeffrey Mine outside Canada House, London, before handing in a petition to 10 Downing Street. In Quebec, an Asian Delegation from affected importing countries (including Indonesia, India, Korea and Japan) is holding a number of public events and press conferences across the province.

Laurie Kazan-Allen, coordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS) and producer of the British Asbestos Newsletter says: “For over a decade, we have been engaged in a David and Goliath battle with asbestos lobbyists, stakeholder governments and commercial interests. They maintain that asbestos can be used safely under controlled conditions, but we know this is wrong. A new asbestos mine in Quebec would be an abomination.”

Kathleen Ruff, Canadian anti-asbestos campaigner, author of Exporting Harm: How Canada Exports Asbestos to the Developing World, and senior human rights adviser to the Rideau
Institute, an independent research and advocacy organisation in Ottawa, says: “It’s not too late for the Quebec Government to change its mind and deny the loan guarantee. They must set an example to the other asbestos exporters worldwide. If this mine re-opens, the Canadian and Quebec Governments will have blood on their hands for generations to come.”

If governments in Canada recognise that restrictions and regulations are essential to protect our citizens from the devastating effects of this hazardous product, why do they allow asbestos to be exported to other countries that may lack the resources to protect their own citizens?” asks CMA president Jeff Turnbull. “We have a social responsibility to protect not only the health of Canadians but that of citizens elsewhere who are being harmed by a Canadian export. Canada should not be abdicating this responsibility,” he adds. Dr Richard Horton, Editor of The Lancet, said: “The links between asbestos and lung cancer, including mesothelioma, have long been established. The governments of Quebec and Canada should not be exporting asbestos to developing nations where there are few or no workplace regulations to protect workers or the general population from its lethal effects. They should, as governments of a high-income nation, be setting an example to other asbestos-exporting nations – such as Russia and Kazakhstan – by declaring this practice is no longer acceptable.

“The Lancet adds its voice to those of the many anti-asbestos campaigners worldwide, the Canadian Medical Association, and others, who are calling for an end to this immoral export of asbestos-related death and disease to some of the most vulnerable people in the world. We call on the Government of Quebec not to back re-development of the Jeffrey Mine which would continue asbestos exports for another 25 years. Like WHO, The Lancet will be happy to see asbestos phased out of use of in all parts of the world.”

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“석면소비국 아시아에 밀집
캐나다 석면광산 허가 안돼”

한겨레신문
2010년 12월 15일

석면소비국 아시아에 밀집 캐나다 석면광산 허가 안돼

석면은 아시아 지역에 대한 최대의 석면 수출국이다. 한국도 캐나다에서 가장 많은 석면을 수입했다. 캐나다의 석면 수출량은 별도 업계 업계에 의하면 석면 수출량을 높이기 위해 캐나다와 아시아, 남아프리카공화국 등의 석면업계와 정부는 석면업계의 경우 “조심해서 사용하면 안전하다는 누락” 내세워 대만과 한국도 역시 석면 수출하고 있다.

아시아석면산업계는 석면의 사용은 의학적, 환경적, 유해물질의 국가간 이동을 금지하는 국제조약인 “한국협약”에 비례하여 캐나다 허가 변경을 주장한다. 하지만 캐나다의 석면 수출입 석면개보는 국가들간에 환경보전센터장소 소장은 “캐나다는 법적으로 석면을 금지하지 않지만 군중에게서는 거의 석면이 없다” 며 “석면산업계의 일본에서 한국으로 이동된 것처럼 석면 산업과 석면의 국가간 이동을 금지하고 해야 한다고 한다.”

석면은 아시아 지역에 대한 석면 수출국이다. 한국도 캐나다에서 가장 많은 석면을 수입했다. 캐나다의 석면 수출량은 별도 업계 업계에 의하면 석면 수출량을 높이기 위해 캐나다와 아시아, 남아프리카공화국 등의 석면업계와 정부는 석면업계의 경우 “조심해서 사용하면 안전하다는 누락” 내세워 대만과 한국도 역시 석면 수출하고 있다.

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