



Eliminating Asbestos Use and Export in Canada: Protecting Workers in Canada and Abroad



 Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

Home • About us • Contact us • Français

ABOUT CANCER PREVENTION CANCER RESEARCH SUPPORT/SERVICES

 About us

Local offices
Media centre

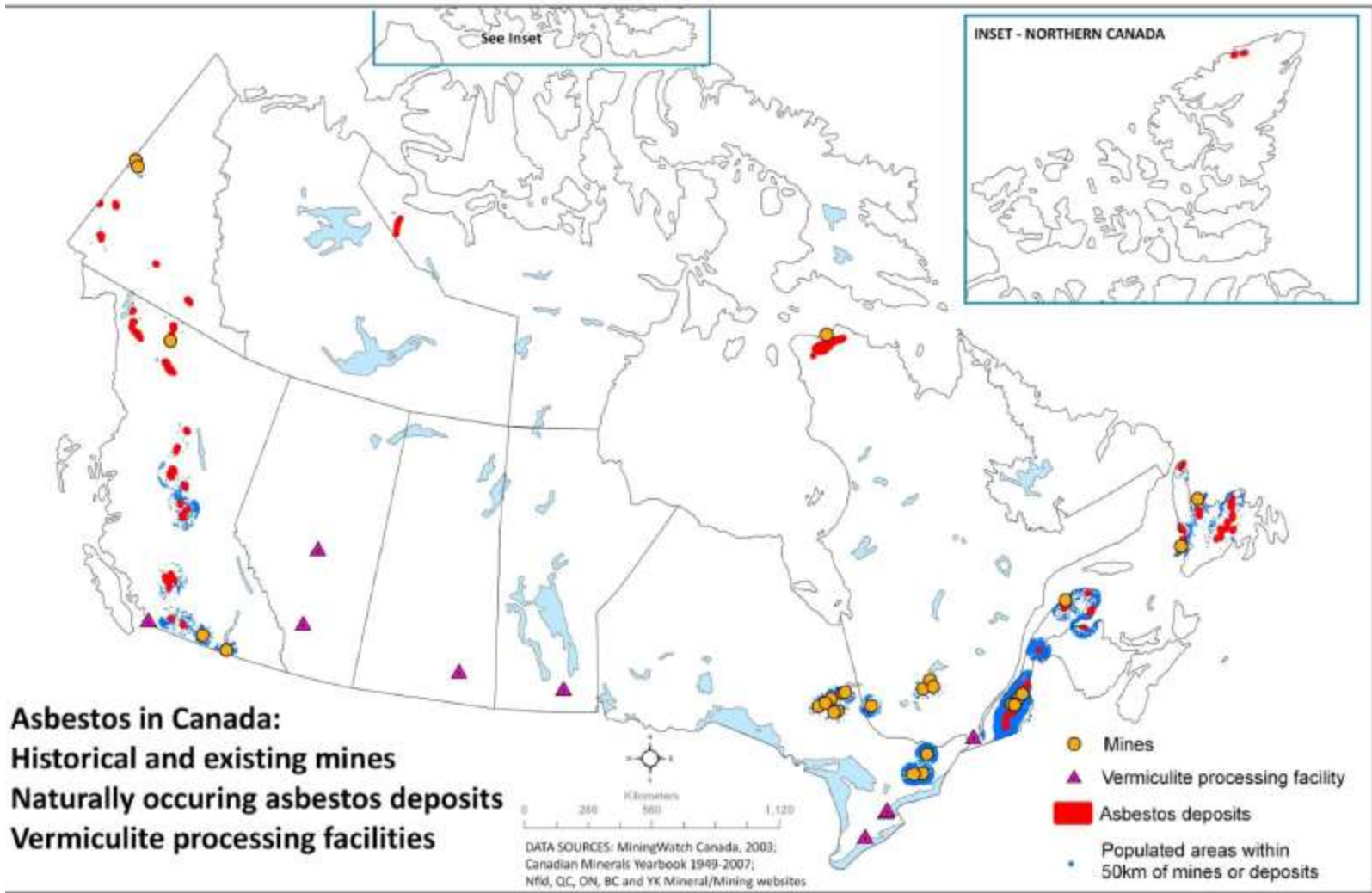
Recommendations for reducing environmental and workplace exposure to carcinogens

ASBESTOS
A CANADIAN-MADE FIBRE AIG

Rayne Kinare developed mesothelioma, a form of cancer, from asbestos. He warned people to not breathe asbestos because it was in his body. He said, "I didn't go to work to die."

Yours is the public asbestos record in Canada. If you are working, live, or travel in Canada, you need it.

CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS



Source CAREX Canada, for more information see:
http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/asbestos/environmental_estimate/#provincial_tables_and_maps

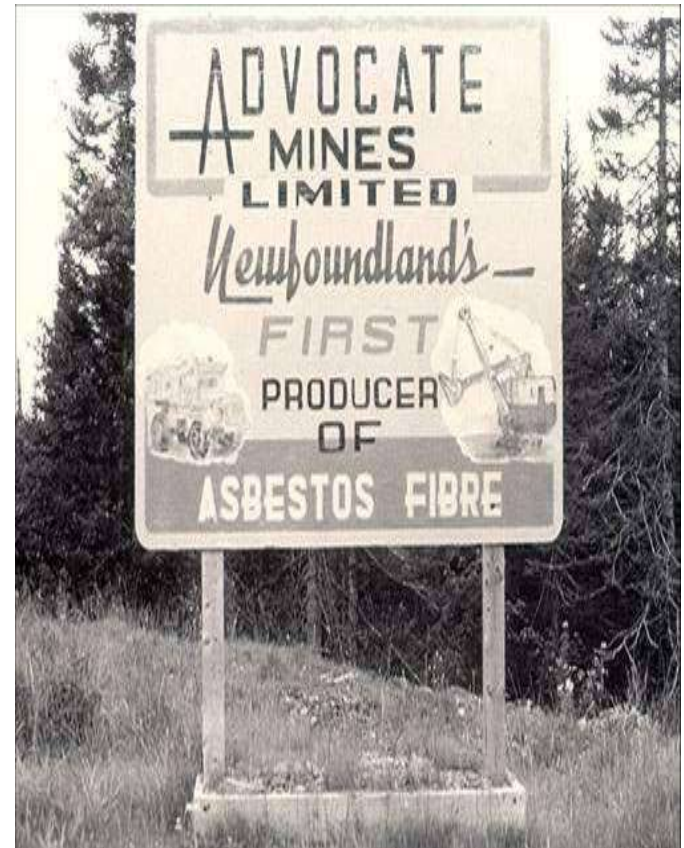


Abandoned Mines, exploited communities

Asbestos , Quebec 1879- 2001

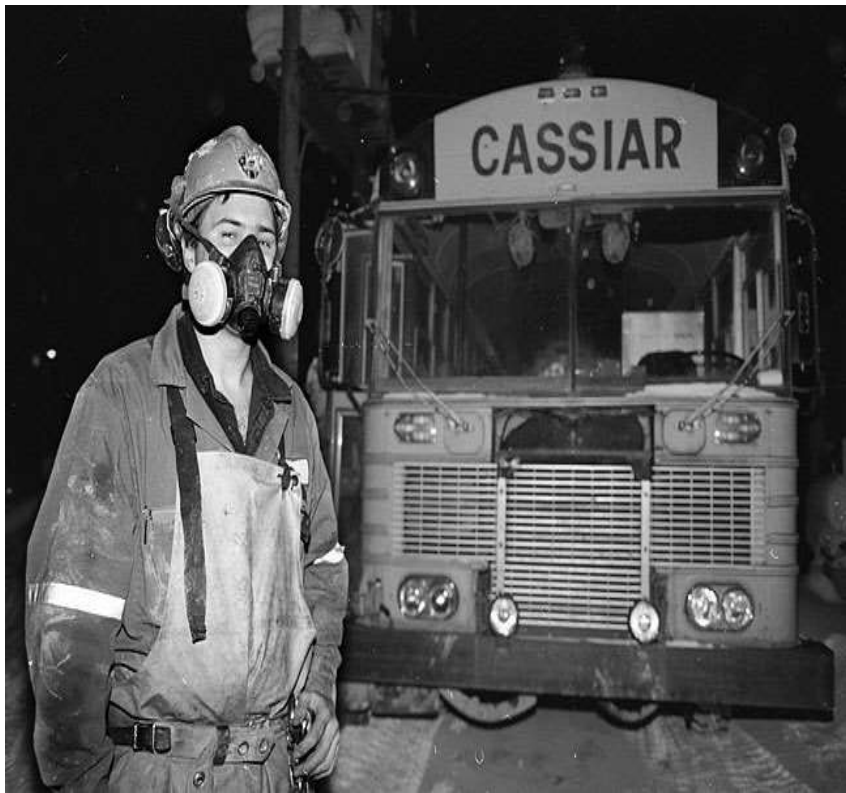


Baie Verte Nfld 1963 - 1990



Exploitation of asbestos miners coast to coast

1952-2000



Cassiar B.C "ghost town"

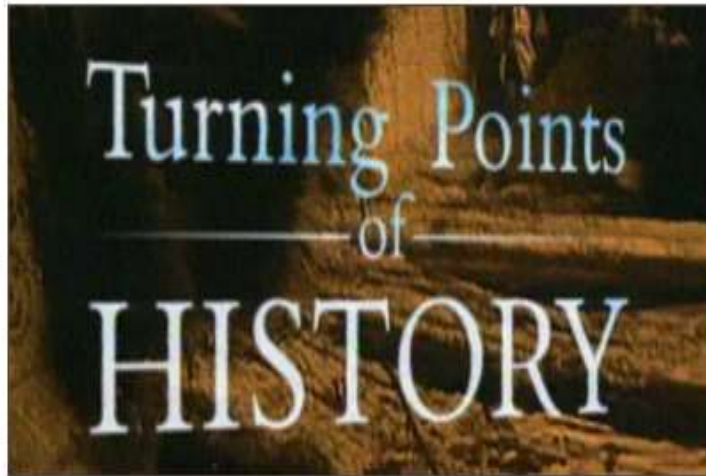


“A war for health and safety; Miners support each other as number of asbestos-related illnesses grow” UPS Western Star



Persistent

Le Soleil, Québec, 26 February 1949



TURNING POINTS II | THE ASBESTOS STRIKE



Canada's longest health-related strike

Broadcast Date: May 7, 1978

Their demands are simple. The 500 Baie Verte, Newfoundland miners are not asking for more pay or more vacation time. Instead they want double lockers: one for their clean clothes and another to store their asbestos-covered work clothes. They want car washes and showers. They want a clean lunchroom. It's all in an attempt to protect themselves and their families from exposure to the deadly asbestos dust.

Dying for a living: cancer, asbestos and occupational disease in Canada

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1976 5

Northern Ontario asbestos mine 'worst yet' with workers covered in fibre, Lewis says



By JOAN HOLLOBON

Asbestos workers in a mine-mill operation at Matachewan, about 40 miles southeast of Timmins, were seen last fall with their coveralls and faces "totally covered with asbestos fibres," according to an Ontario Government report quoted last night by New Democratic Party

mine was then producing about 4,000 tons of asbestos a day.

Mr. Rajhans's report also noted that "the poor working conditions created by these spillages cannot be overemphasized. The floors and equipment were covered with a thick layer of asbestos dust which appeared to get air-

borne by the slightest vibration.

The engineer said workers in the areas with high asbestos fibre were not wearing respirators.

"According to Mr. (I Cook (mine manager) there are no general requirements for the workers to wear them," Mr. Rajhans said.

Mr. Lewis said about this

Fibre in asbestos mill 16 times safety level, B.C. union man says

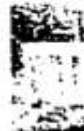
Health hazard extremely low, asbestos firm's doctor says

10 THE GLOBE AND MAIL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1976

Lung cancer produced one out of five deaths of asbestos workers

By JOAN HOLLOBON

Lung cancer is the cause of one in five deaths among



Delivered lunches at asbestos plant, woman has cancer

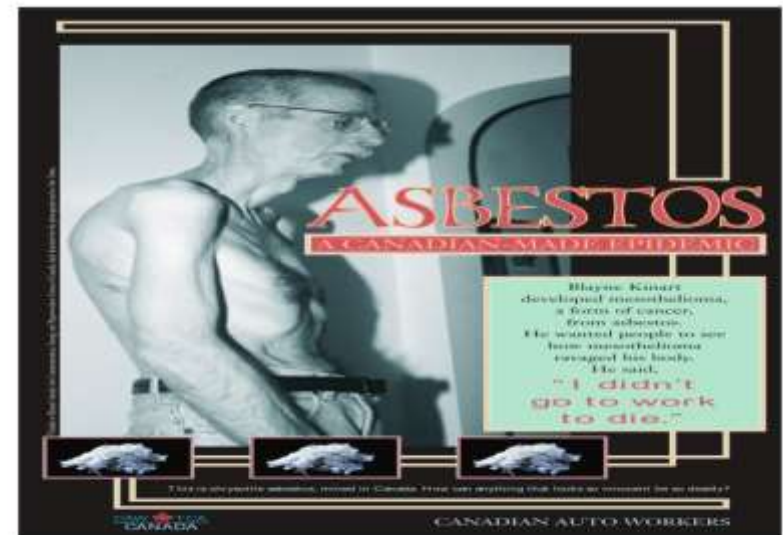
By THOMAS COLEMAN

Mr. MacBeth said such

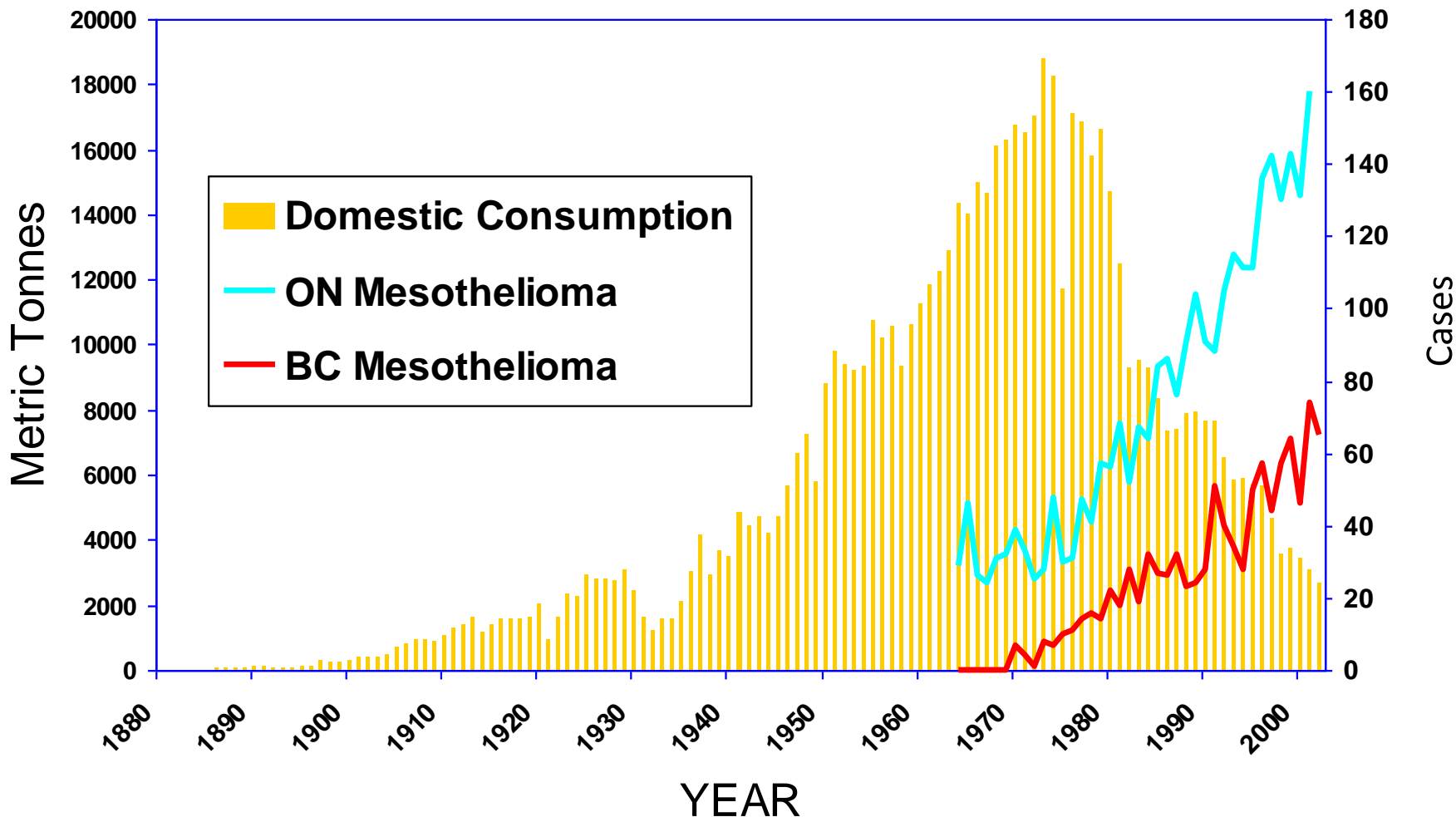
“Outrageous Misconduct: The Asbestos Industry On Trial”

*“But as long as the man is not disabled
it is felt that he should not be told of
his condition
so that he can live and work in
peace and the **company can
benefit by his many years
of experience.**”*

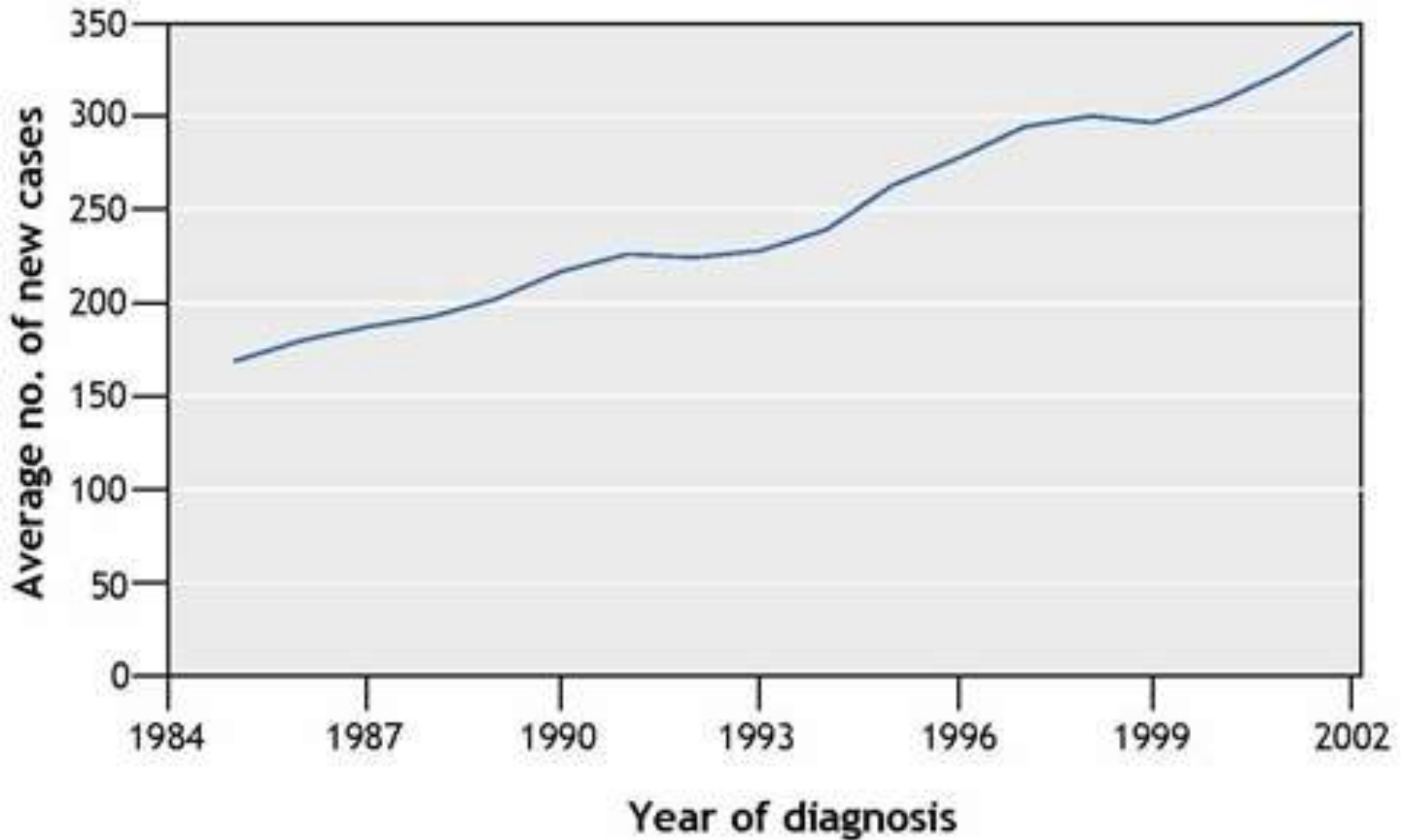
- **Johns–Manville medical consultant, Dr. Kenneth Wallace Smith** (cited in Brodeur P. *Outrageous Misconduct: The Asbestos Industry On Trial.*)



Asbestos Use in Canada and New Cases of Mesothelioma in Ontario and British Columbia



New cases of mesothelioma in men in Canada from 1984 to 2003.

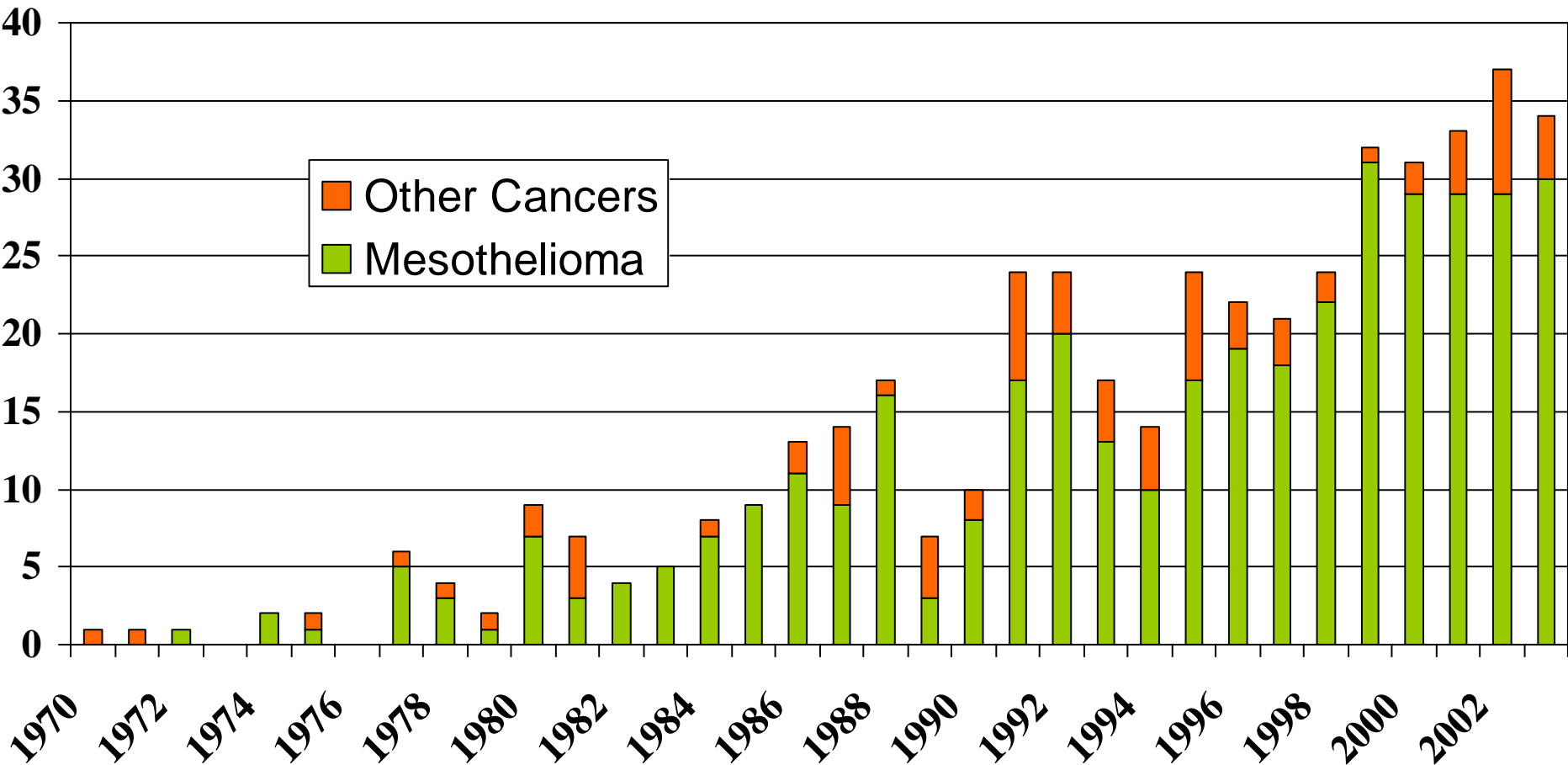


- LEGACY OF DISEASE : ONGOING CAMPAIGNS

Québec areas with a statistically significant excess of pleural malignant mesothelioma (MM) and asbestosis (A), 1982-2002



Asbestos-Related Workers' Compensation Claims, BC



Asbestos-Related Cancers in Canada

- There are as many as 500 mesotheliomas diagnosed each year
- Based on estimates from epidemiologic studies there are 1300-2100 lung cancers each year
- Asbestos has also been associated with larynx, ovary, pharynx, stomach, and colorectal cancer
 - ⇒ Asbestos may be responsible for at least 2000 new cancers each year in Canada, mostly fatal.

EACH YEAR

Canada exports 120,000 tonnes of asbestos to India and other countries in South Asia.

EACH YEAR

100,000 people worldwide die from asbestos-caused disease.

Are you outraged?

BAN ASBESTOS CANADA is a coalition of unions and health and social activism organizations committed to banning the export of asbestos and securing just compensation and transition for Canadian workers. We work in solidarity with the international ban asbestos movement.

Learn more at www.bacanada.org.

CANADIAN ASBESTOS
ONE KILLER EXPORT



Asbestos: Linking issues

- **Worker and Union** history of struggle for healthier workplaces
- **just compensation** and job transition
- **Policy endorsements** : labour federations
- **Links** with cancer agencies, research community, and social justice organizations
- **Media** support and extended coverage/Quebec and national
- **Political Party Support for Asbestos Export Ban**

“The true burden of asbestos related cancer is much greater than just mesothelioma”



“Canadian Cancer Society Joins Labour Call For Asbestos Ban”

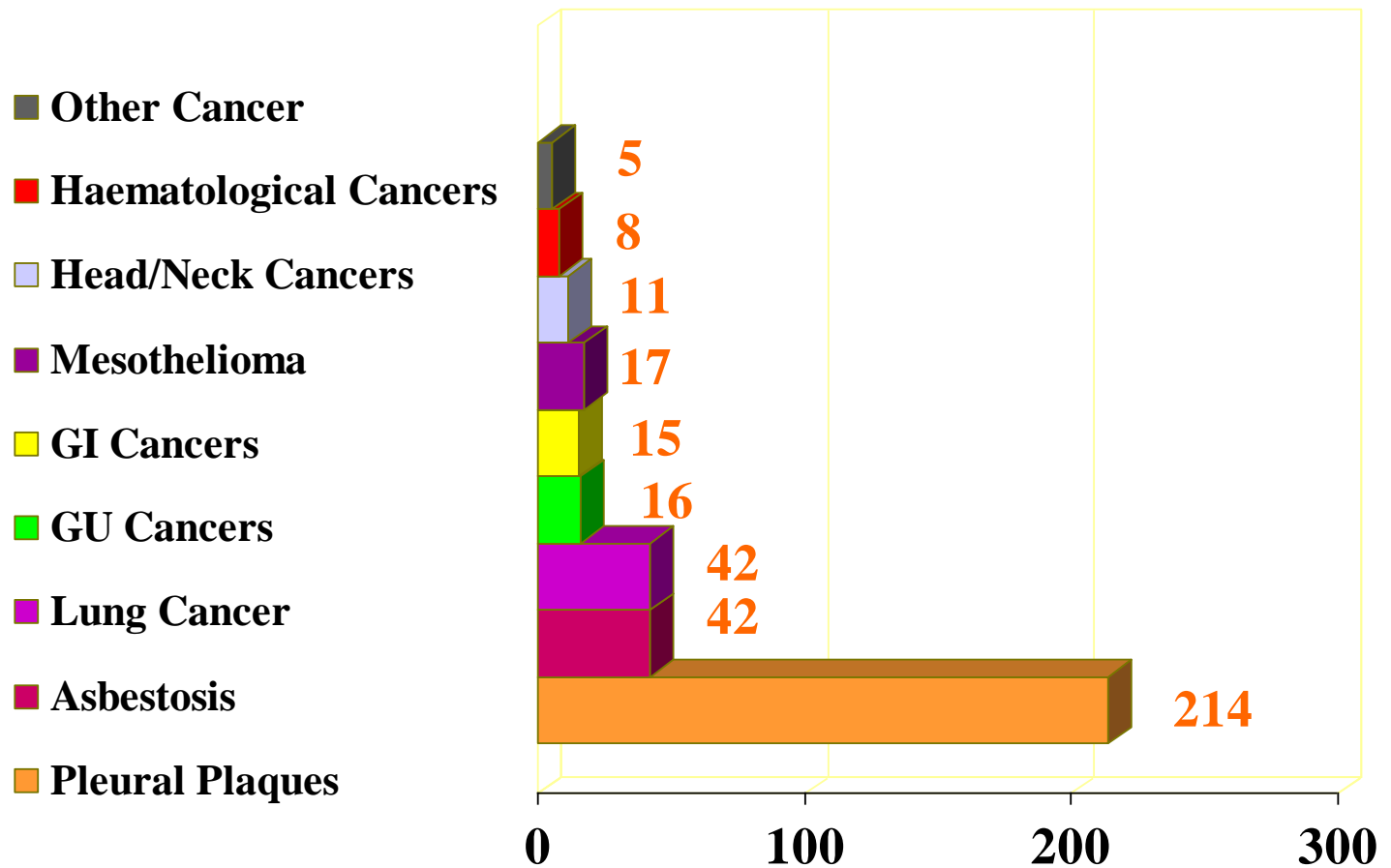
Fibre Exposures over TLV

Quebec 2001-2005: Debunking the myth of “safe exposures” in Quebec...

Equipment and machinery industries	97%
Masonry /construction	75%
Asbestos product manufacture	71%
Brake (automotive) industry	46%

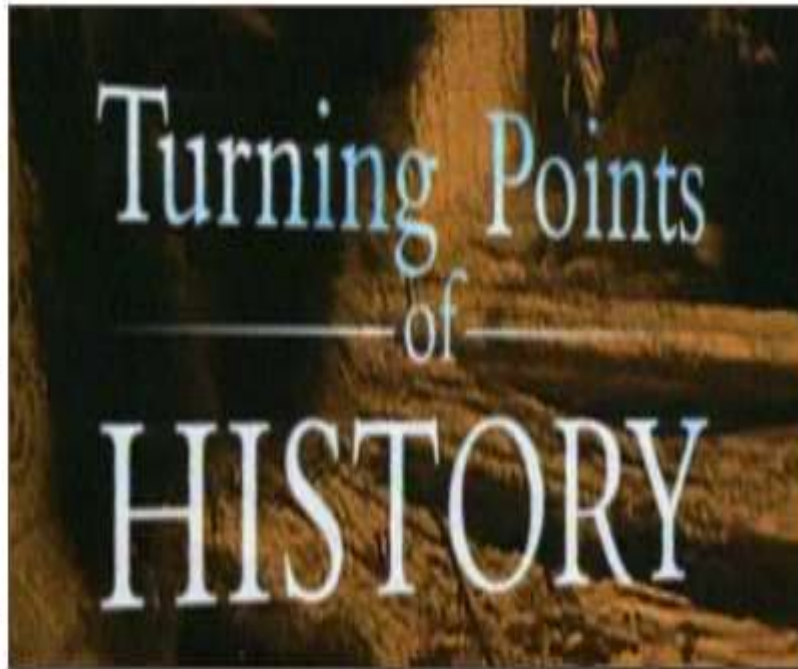
46% of samples in asbestos products industries were over 200% higher than legal exposure limits

Building Trades Workers: 1514 workers seen; 679 claims, over 350 for asbestos disease



Parliament Building March & Protest Canadian Building Trades, CLC and BAC

In solidarity with the asbestos miners struggles from 1949 to today..



TURNING POINTS II | THE ASBESTOS STRIKE



**Canadian Labour
Congress challenges
Prime Minister on
asbestos**

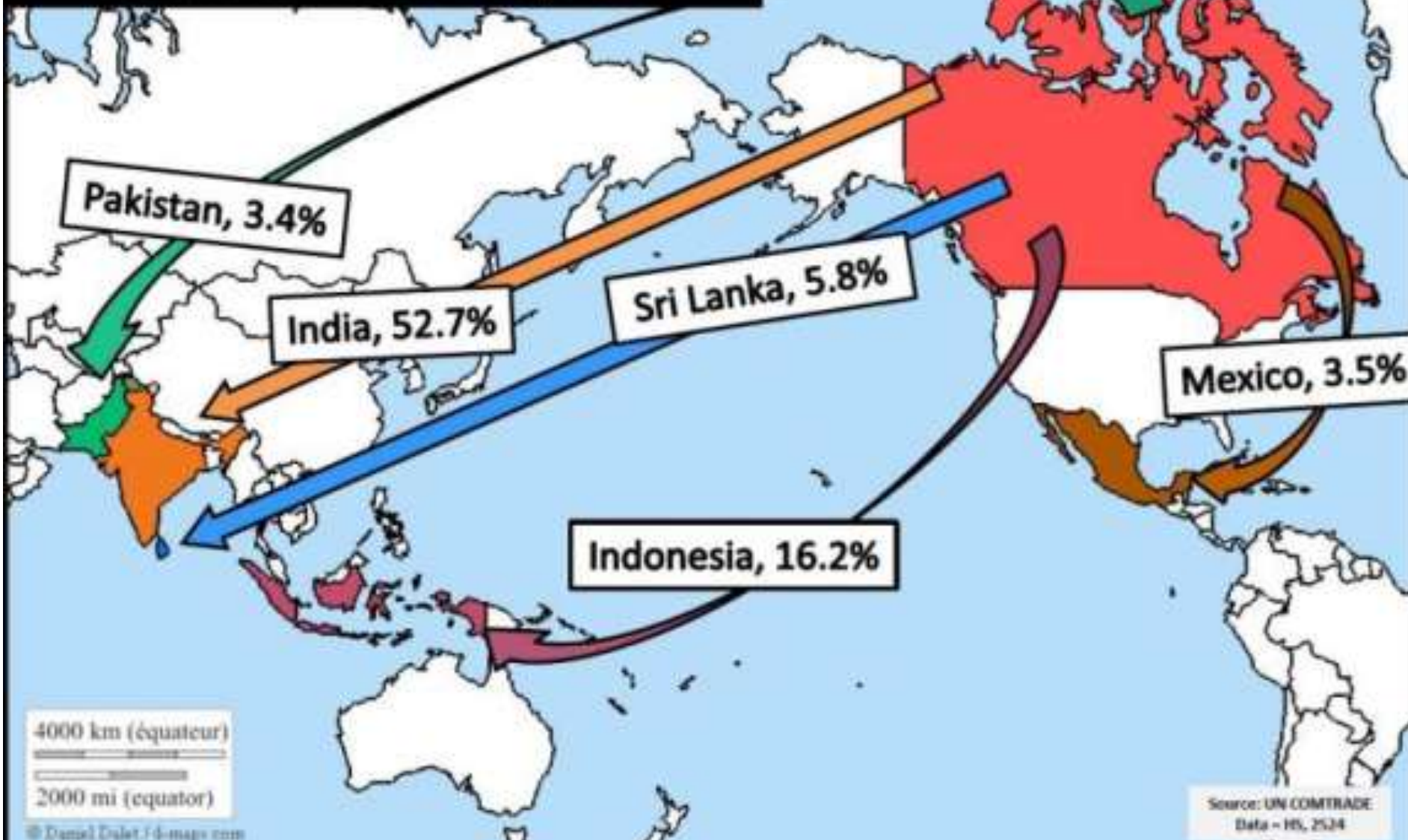
***Canada must end its support for the deadly
asbestos export trade. We call upon you to
put people's lives ahead of politics.***

K. Georgetti
President, CLC

Truth about Canadian Asbestos and
Mesothelioma



Percentage of Canadian Exports to Destination Countries, 2010



4000 km (équateur)
2000 mi (equator)

Source: UN COMTRADE
Data - HS, 2524

Canada's ugly secret exposed: Media Campaign

The National



Special Report: International

Asbestos production increases despite WHO opposition

WORLD CALL OF CONSCIENCE TO PRIME MINISTER HARPER
TO STOP OBSTRUCTING THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

To Prime Minister Harper:

September 10 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the *U.N. Rotterdam Convention*

...als explain conti

Home > News

RSS Feeds Newsletters Bookmark

[-] Text [+]

Asbestos killing more Canadians than ever; like old 'landmines'

BAN ASBESTOS CANADA

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 16, 2008

Posted In: Life Sciences

By Andy Blatchford-Associated Press

Sunday, November 8, 2009

NDP Asbestos policy applauded

Globe and Mail

November 1, 2008

Ottawa silent on danger of Quebec asbestos

MARTIN MITTELSTAEDT
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

<http://www.theobserver.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1747987>

NDP private member's bill would ban a

September 10, 2009

Last Mine Shut down!



GLOBE EDITORIAL

Quebec should let the asbestos industry die +

The Globe and Mail

Marois pledges to cancel \$58-million loan to Quebec asbestos mine +

RHÉAL SÉGUIN AND LES PERREAUX

Rouyn-Noranda and Saint-Romain, Quebec — The Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Aug. 29 2012, 1:59 PM EDT

Last updated Friday, Aug. 31 2012, 6:30 PM EDT



Ottawa does U-turn on asbestos mining +

STEVEN CHASE AND LES PERREAUX

OTTAWA and MONTREAL — The Globe and Mail

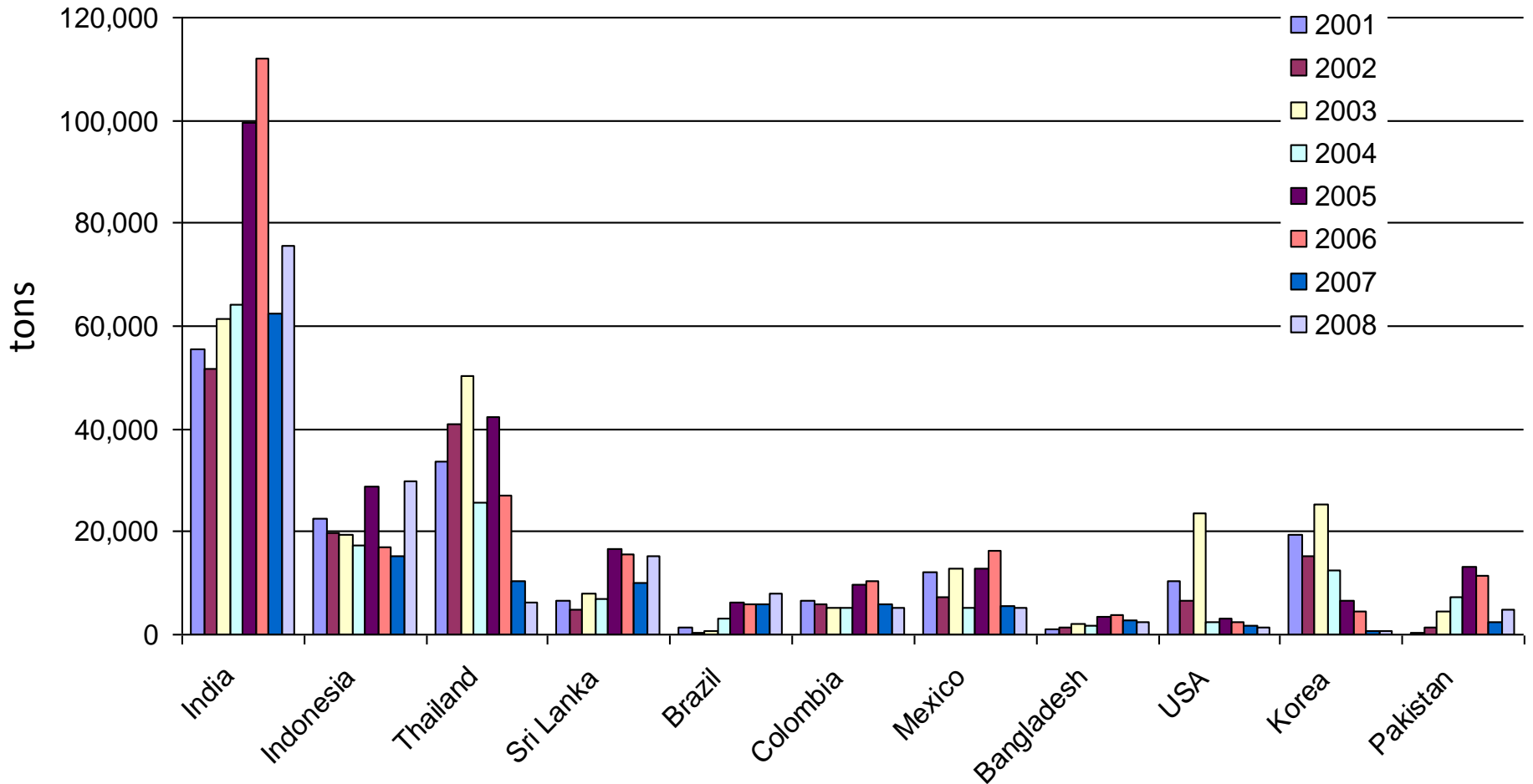
Published Friday, Sep. 14 2012, 3:36 PM EDT

Last updated Friday, Sep. 14 2012, 9:55 PM EDT

Canada exports : Indian worker unloads Canadian asbestos



Main recipients of Canadian asbestos exports: Exports Shut down (not banned)



Continuing to “Manufacture doubt” WORLDWIDE



- **Dr. David M. Bernstein, Ph.D.**
(Switzerland)
- **Title: Health Risk of Chrysotile Revisited**
- “Chrysotile,..... falls apart in the lung
...”
- Ottawa, CLC Executive Board, 2011
New Delhi , India, December 2013

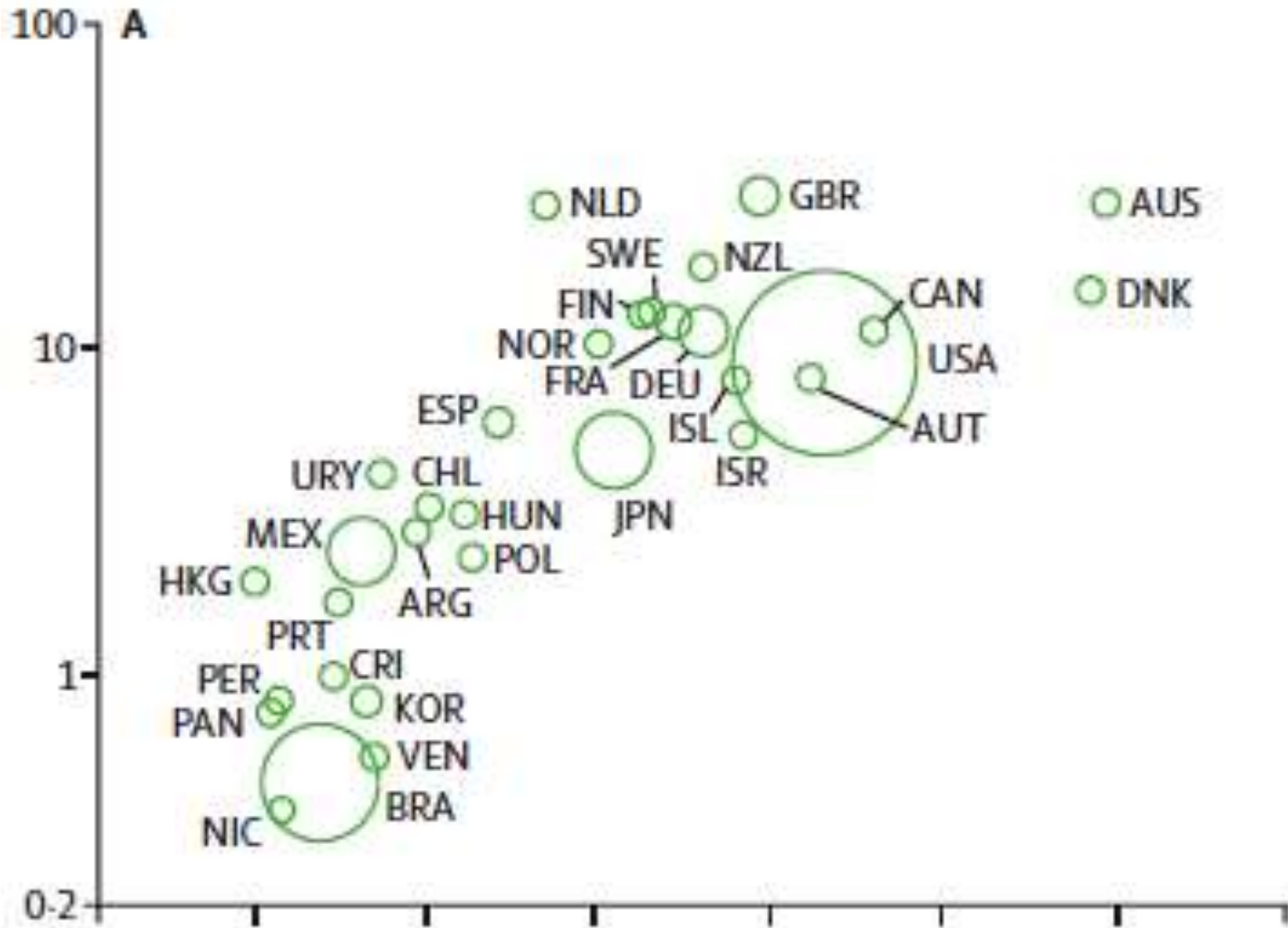
- **Dr. Jacques Dunnigan (Canada)**
- **Title: Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Chrysotile Asbestos**
- On the “correct” interpretation of the IARC classification of human carcinogens;

Director, Health and Environment
Division of the **Asbestos Institute**

CBC, Canada 2010

New Delhi, India Dec. 2013

From: Lin et al. *Lancet* 2007; 369: 844-49



Asbestos consumption (kg per head per year) in 1960-69

Canada exports : Indian worker unloads Canadian asbestos



Chinese Asbestos Textile Workers



Four Pillars :

- 1. Union solidarity;
- 2. community coalitions;
- 3. media support;
- 4. political alliances



[Home](#) > [News](#)

[RSS Feeds](#) [Newsletters](#) [Bookmark](#)
[\[-\] Text \[+\]](#)

Asbestos killing more Canadians than ever; like old 'landmines'

Posted In: [Life Sciences](#)

ASBESTOS
KILLER EXPORT

CALL OF CONSCIENCE TO PRIME MINISTER HARPER STOP OBSTRUCTING THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

reper:

the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the *U.N. Rotterdam Convention on*

ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
CANADA



Marois pledges to cancel \$58-million loan to Quebec asbestos mine

RHEAL SÉGUIN AND LES PERREAUX

Rouyn-Noranda and Saint-Romain, Quebec — The Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Aug. 29 2012, 1:59 PM EDT

Last updated Friday, Aug. 31 2012, 6:30 PM EDT

ABOUT CANCER PREVENTION CANCER RESEARCH SUPPORT/SERVICES

About us

Text size

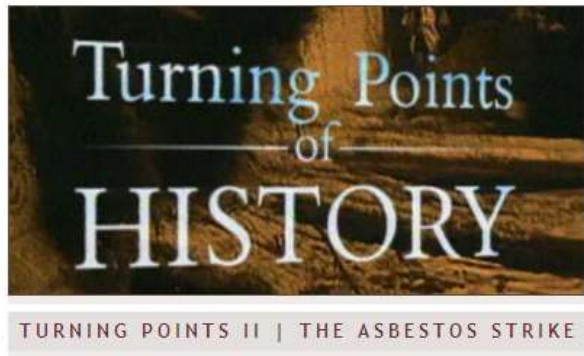
Local offices
Media centre

Recommendations for reducing environmental and workplace exposure to carcinogens

AREA fund Asbestos-related Research, Education and Advocacy Fund

[Donate](#)

International Struggle to Ban Asbestos Continues....



BAN ASBESTOS THE CANADIAN MADE EPIDEMIC

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw the attention of the House to the following:

- Asbestos is the greatest industrial killer the world has ever known;
- Canada remains one of the largest producers and exporters of asbestos;
- Canada allows asbestos to be used in construction materials, textile products and even children's toys; and,
- Canada spends millions subsidizing the asbestos industry and blocking international efforts to curb its use.

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon Parliament to:

- **BAN ASBESTOS IN ALL ITS FORMS AND INSTITUTE A JUST TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR ASBESTOS WORKERS AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY LIVE IN;**
- **END ALL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES OF ASBESTOS BOTH IN CANADA AND ABROAD; AND,**
- **STOP BLOCKING INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONVENTIONS DESIGNED TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM ASBESTOS, SUCH AS THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION.**

For more information contact:
PAT MARTIN, MP (WINNIPEG CENTRE)
HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, CANADA K1A 0A6
martin.pat@parl.gc.ca

SIGNATURE

(Sign your own name. Do not print.)

ADDRESS

(Please give your full home address including your city and province.)

Home | What is asbestos? | Where is it found? | What is the danger? | How should I handle it? | Do you know the facts? | Find out more

WORK SAFE BC
WORKERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Real life stories

The following real life stories are from trades and maintenance workers and their families who have suffered the devastating effects caused by exposure to asbestos.

Dave Ford

It was fate that brought Lesley Ford and her husband Dave together. Dave had been the boyfriend of her best friend, June. When that didn't work out and Dave came calling, romance blossomed — romance that led to a life together, children, and grandchildren. Over the years, life together naturally had its ups and downs. But there was nothing that could have prepared Lesley and her family for Dave's June 2007 diagnosis with mesothelioma, a terminal cancer caused by exposure to asbestos...

[Read more](#)

Do you know the facts?
Take the asbestos quiz to test your knowledge!

TAKE THE QUIZ

How should I handle it?
Know your rights! What you should be told before starting work.

PROTECT YOURSELF

