



Premier Jean Charest
Assemblée nationale
Québec
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International Mesothelioma Interest Group
c/o A/Prof Steven Mutsaers
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December 16, 2010

Dear Premier Charest

On behalf of the Board of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (IMIG), I am writing to you to appeal to you and your government and the people of Québec not to finance the proposed new Jeffrey asbestos mine.

We understand from press reports that the Minister of Economic Development, M. Clément Gignac, has indicated that he is in favour of giving \$58 million financing to the consortium of investors that wishes to open the Jeffrey mine and export asbestos to the developing world. Mr Gignac has explicitly mentioned the position of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) regarding the use of chrysotile asbestos. May we take this opportunity to remind you that the position of both the ILO and the WHO is that the use of chrysotile should be phased out in all member states, given the extreme difficulties in controlling exposure and consequent diseases caused by chrysotile, in particular in developing countries.

The Québec Medical Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and Québec's respected public health organizations and experts as well as international societies involved with asbestos-related diseases such as IMIG, are unequivocal in their advice 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. On December 9, 2010, the Lancet, the world's most respected medical journal, unambiguously stated that it was not acceptable for a high-income country like Canada to export asbestos to low-income nations.

As an international society made up of the leading world experts in scientific and clinical research into mesothelioma, we appeal to you to accept that the Canadian asbestos industry is dead and to help the people in former asbestos mining communities to embark on a future free of contamination by asbestos.

Yours sincerely

A/Prof Steven Mutsaers (IMIG President)
On behalf of the IMIG Board

Dr Jeremy Steele (Secretary, UK)
Prof Sam Armato (Treasurer, USA)
Prof Stephen Albelda (USA)
Prof Courtney Broadus (USA)
Dr Dean Fennell (UK)
Prof Rabab Gaafar (Egypt)
Prof Marie-Claude Jaurand (France)
Prof Hedy Kindler (USA)
Prof Sakari Knuutila (Finland)

Prof Luciano Mutti (Italy)
Prof Takashi Nakano (Japan)
Prof Harvey Pass (USA)
Prof Bruce Robinson (Australia)
A/Prof Dan Sterman (USA)
Dr Jim teWaterNaude (South Africa)
Prof Walter Weder (Switzerland)