



## News Release

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for immediate release

### **SFL Supports Ban Asbestos Demonstration**

On April 28, the International Day of Mourning for workers killed in their workplaces, United States Ban Asbestos organizations will hold a demonstration at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Larry Hubich, President of the SFL, has written to the organizers of the event supporting their demonstration and cause.

Canada exports over 220,000 metric tonnes of Asbestos mined in Quebec to Southeast Asian poorer countries without developed regulatory systems to protect and monitor those handling this lethal carcinogen. The Canadian Government financially supports the mining and export of this deadly fibre.

Hubich calls Canadian Asbestos policy “a disgrace”, and points out that the policy “runs in opposition to major global health organizations, public interest scientists and over 40 countries which have already banned Asbestos.”

The World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization estimate that 100,000 persons will die annually from exposure to Asbestos. These organizations have called for a global ban.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the esteemed scientific Collegium Ramazzini supports a global Ban stating that all kinds of Asbestos are a class one, strong carcinogen and it is an illusion to believe that it can be handled safely.

Bob Sass, Chair of the Ban Asbestos Saskatchewan Committee, notes that the Canadian Chrysotile Institute, funded by the federal government with taxpayers' dollars, is the major obstacle against any efforts to Ban Asbestos in the world. “Furthermore, Canada has blocked a United Nations Convention requiring pre-export notification of the hazards of Asbestos exposure to poorer third-world countries. This amounts to little more than placing warning labels on products and the “right to know” about Banned products elsewhere in the world,” says Sass.

Federal policy has been criticized by Canadian health scientists and Member of Parliament Pat Martin, who has called on the Harper Government to close the mines and provide “just transition” and compensation to the approximately 800 miners, their families and the communities.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour – Ban Asbestos Saskatchewan Committee supports MP Pat Martin and others in lobbying our federal government to Ban Asbestos which is the most catastrophic occupational health problem in the history of the Factory Acts and occupational health public policy.

For more information, contact Bob Sass at 249-0206 or Larry Hubich at 537-7330 (cel)