



Campaign to put human rights back on Canada's agenda
We are all citizens of one planet



Support the bill to ban Canada's asbestos exports

[Send your letter to all party leaders](#)

Asbestos kills and goes on killing for generations. It is impossible to manage asbestos safely and so all industrialized countries have banned or stopped using all forms of asbestos. But Canada is one of the world's largest exporters of asbestos, mostly to poor countries.

That's why today, June 1, Member of Parliament Nathan Cullen (NDP, Skeena-Bulkley Valley) introduced a Private Member's Bill to ban the mining and export of asbestos. It deserves everyone's support.

[Send your letter to party leaders to urge them to support "An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 \(asbestos\)."](#)

We no longer use asbestos in Canada. Instead, we export it to developing countries, telling them it is a safe, desirable product for their homes and schools. The World Health Organization estimates that 125 million workers worldwide are exposed to asbestos every year and more than 90,000 workers die as a result of their exposure. This heartless double standard must stop.

The Bill was inspired by three remarkable students from Smithers, a small town in north-west British Columbia, who are determined to make sure Canada is no longer disgraced by its dirty exports.

Write to Party leaders to tell them to support the Bill, and to listen to the message of the students, of health organizations and of the worldwide trade union movement. Do the right thing. Help stop Canada's export of asbestos.

Thank you for speaking up for human rights!

Kathleen, Peggy, Pauline, Becky

Where the political parties stand:

- The NDP and the Green Party support the banning of asbestos.
- The Liberal leader, Michael Ignatieff, recently stated that he personally supports a ban on asbestos. Six Liberal MPs, including three who are medical doctors, have recently spoken out in support of a ban (Dr. Hedy Fry, Dr. Keith Martin, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Joyce Murray, Kirsty Duncan and Quebec MP, Raymonde Folco). However, the Liberal Party has not yet adopted the banning of asbestos as official party policy.

The Conservative Party and the Bloc Québécois agree that the asbestos Canada exports causes cancer. They claim, however, that because such strict controls exist in the developing world, no one is exposed to harmful asbestos fibres. This justification has been repeatedly exposed as lacking any credibility.