

# THE TRUTH

- Asbestos-related diseases are the #1 occupational killer in BC and across Canada; it's estimated that over 1,500 people in BC will die from asbestos-related diseases over the next 5 years. Approximately 26,000 workers in BC are still at risk of exposure to asbestos in the workplace.
- Asbestos has been a known carcinogen since the early 1950's, but workers weren't told. Asbestos continued to be used in thousands of products for decades, because industry and government chose greed and politics over health and well-being.
- To hide the truth about the deadly impacts of asbestos, the asbestos lobby uses the same tactics as the tobacco lobby – cause confusion, cause doubt.
- The truth is, all asbestos is deadly – even white asbestos called chrysotile – 95% of all asbestos ever used was chrysotile.
- You don't have to work in a mine, a factory, or a mill to be exposed to asbestos – it was used in thousands of products until the late 1980's. Any building, including our homes, constructed prior to 1990, could have asbestos containing materials.
- Asbestos is odourless, tasteless and invisible – it has been dubbed the “silent killer”; there is no known safe exposure limit for asbestos and no known cures for the diseases that it creates.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for a global asbestos ban – more than 50 countries have banned asbestos – Canada is not one of them.
- Because industrialized countries no longer use asbestos, the industry targets developing countries where workers and their families suffer gross over exposures. Canada was exporting asbestos to developing countries until the fall of 2012.
- When Canada's last remaining mine went bankrupt, the Quebec government offered a \$58 million loan guarantee to help reopen the mine; with a change of government in 2012, the offer was revoked. All Canadian asbestos mines are now closed.
- For decades, Canadian and Quebec governments promoted and subsidized the asbestos industry: \$35 million 1984 – 2012.

## PROJECTS SUPPORTED

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the AREA Fund has supported the following projects.

### 2012 Canadian Mesothelioma Symposium

The 2012 Canadian Mesothelioma Symposium was hosted by the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver BC. Topics covered included the basic science of mesothelioma and its epidemiology, compensation for asbestos-related diseases, and an overview of the asbestos industry here in Canada. It closed with the Canadian documentary *Breathtaking*.

### Meso Awareness & Compensation Project by CHSPR

Research shows that less than 50% of mesothelioma victims and their families apply for compensation; the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (CHSPR) undertook a study to determine why. In order to ensure that victims and their families receive the compensation and support that they need (and that is rightfully theirs) it's important to determine why so few apply and then rectify the problems. The interview phase of the project is complete; they are currently summarizing the findings.

### Canadian Documentary: *Canary in the Mine*

The RTA School of Media at Ryerson University created this documentary to chronicle some of the people most affected by the production of controversial chrysotile asbestos in Canada. AREA Fund assisted with distribution to film festivals across Canada; it was shown at 10 screenings in 2011 and 2012.

### Community Right to Know Campaign

This awareness campaign is a Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), BC & Yukon Division initiative. The objective of the campaign is to reduce cancer incidence by educating workers in BC – and the BC population at large – on ways to reduce their exposure to radon and asbestos. The campaign will also improve cancer screening by encouraging workers to sign up for WorkSafeBC's new exposure registry; the information obtained will be kept as a permanent record of a worker's exposure.

### Canadian Environmental Health Atlas

SFU's Faculty of Health Sciences is developing an online, open access Canadian Environmental Health Atlas. AREA Fund provided support for the asbestos section which will provide objective information and tools that will raise awareness and understanding of the harms of asbestos. The Atlas is a 5 year project; the asbestos page will be ready this summer.

**WALK for TRUTH**  
**ASBESTOS KILLS**  
**ASBESTOS IS BC's #1 OCCUPATIONAL KILLER**  
**IN HONOUR OF ALL VICTIMS OF ASBESTOS**



**Funding asbestos-related research,  
education and advocacy projects**

**Raising awareness of the devastating  
effects of exposure to asbestos**

***Without you, there would be no hope.  
Because of you, we are full of hope.***

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# THANK YOU!

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

# PROGRAM

## 10:30 to 11:15 – Sign-in / Registration

Complimentary coffee and cookies!

- Receive and personalize event bibs
- Pick-up program and asbestos information pamphlets
- ‘Ban Asbestos’ petition available for signing

## 11:30 am to noon – Guest Speakers

- Dave Formosa – Powell River Mayor
- Dr. Tim Takaro – VGH, Occupational Medicine Clinic
- Scott McCloy – Director of Community Relations, WorkSafeBC
- Doug Jones – Former President, Steelworkers Local 480
- Chris Martin – Health & Safety Consultant, AREC Environment
- Stacy Mogan – Daughter of asbestos victim
- Pat Martin – Winnipeg MP

## Noon – Walk Begins

- Daisy flower drop into McGuffie Creek  
*107 daisies will be handed to participants to gently drop from the footbridge into the forest and McGuffie Creek below. The 107 daisies are in honour of the 107,000 people that the World Health Organization estimates will die from asbestos-related diseases this year alone.*

## 12:30 pm – By-donation Hotdog Barbeque Begins

- Stay for the ‘by-donation’ hotdog / veggie dog barbeque hosted by CUPE Local 798
- Kids, have your photo taken with Sparky in front of a fire truck

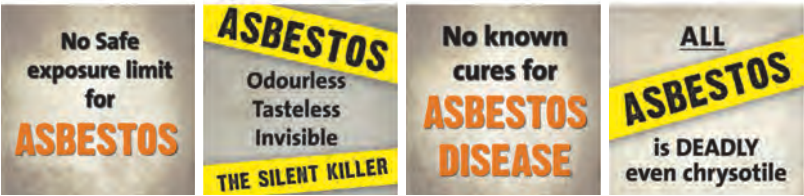
## 3:00 pm – ‘Rock Reject’ Book Reading/Signing

After the walk/barbeque, join us at River City Coffee for the ‘Rock Reject’ book reading/signing.

- Author, Jim Williams, will read a short excerpt from his award winning novel ‘Rock Reject’  
*Set in a BC asbestos mining town in the 1970s, it’s a story about accepting responsibility for one’s actions, corporate irresponsibility and the blind pursuit of profit at the expense of physical and environmental health.*
- Stay for a discussion about the asbestos issue, ask Jim your questions, and get your copy of ‘Rock Reject’ signed.  
*Copies will be available at the coffee shop (\$20 cash please).*

Together we can do more than we can apart.  
Thank you for joining us.

# WALK ROUTE MAP



It may be foolish to think we can prevent all future deaths due to asbestos exposure by raising awareness, but it would be more foolish not to try.