

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.
- 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 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 With a change of government in 2012, the offer was revoked, but with another change of government in 2014, there is a slim possibility that a mine could be re-opened. Currently, all Canadian asbestos mines are 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, AREA Fund has supported the following projects. For details, please visit our website www.areafund.ca and go to 'Projects Funded'.

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 project is complete; they are currently finalizing their report.

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 provides objective information and tools that help raise awareness and understanding of the harms of asbestos. The Atlas is a 5 year project; the asbestos page is now online.

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

AREA fund Asbestos-related Research, Education & Advocacy Fund
areafund.ca

Funding asbestos-related research, education and advocacy projects
Raising awareness of the devastating effects of exposure to asbestos

Those with the privilege to know have the duty to act. – Albert Einstein

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Food & Beverage

Aaron Service & Supply
 Mitchell Brothers Merchants
 Quality Foods
 Safeway Canada
 Save On Foods
 Tim Hortons

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

PROGRAM

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm – 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
- Kids, have your photo taken with a firefighter and their fire truck

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm – Guest Speakers

Seating available!

- Dave Formosa – Powell River Mayor
 - Scott McCloy – WorkSafeBC, Director of Government, Community & Media Relations
 - Nancy Falconer – Canadian Cancer Society, Health Promotion Coordinator
 - Larry Stoffman – Occupational Health & Safety Specialist
- a brief safety moment from Gary Amundsen – Select Safety Services*

3:00 pm – Awareness Walk Begins

- Awareness Walk
2 km loop along Marine Avenue to Alexander Street and back along Willingdon Avenue.
- Memorial Flower Drop
107 daisies will be handed to participants to carry on the walk and then drop into McGuffie Creek at the ocean’s edge. The 107 daisies represent the 107,000 people that the World Health Organization estimates will die from asbestos-related diseases this year alone.

3:30 pm – By-donation Hotdog Barbeque Begins

- Stay for the ‘by-donation’ hotdog / veggie dog barbeque hosted by CUPE Local 798 at the Willingdon Beach Campsite barbeque area.

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

WALK ROUTE MAP

