

# ASBESTOS – NDP POSITION

Noting that:

- the **World Health Organization** recommends that countries adopt a “national plan of action for the elimination of asbestos-related diseases”;
- the **institut national de santé du Québec** has concluded that “chrysotile asbestos is a proven human carcinogen and causes asbestosis.”
- the **Canadian Cancer Society** believes that “Canadians must be safe from exposure to asbestos around mines and industries, in their communities, at home, and at work,” and the Society calls for “the Federal Government to adopt a comprehensive strategy addressing all aspects of the asbestos issue, including the eventual phasing out of use and export of asbestos.”

Therefore the NDP calls on the federal government **to adopt a comprehensive policy on asbestos**, which would include the following measures:

- After consultation with communities and workers, the federal government will **invest in community economic development** for communities being negatively affected by the crisis in the asbestos industry and develop a **Just Transition Program** to help mitigate the effect on workers now employed in the asbestos industry, including but not limited to measures such as:
  - early retirement, retraining and other bridging measures to accommodate re-entry to the workforce;
  - inclusion of workers not employed directly in the asbestos industry but whose jobs still depend on the industry; and,
  - broadening disability compensation to include all victims of asbestos related diseases in Canada.
- Implement a **pan-Canadian asbestos abatement program** to test for and safely remove asbestos when found in residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings, including on military bases and reserves
- In light of the **World Health Organization’s** conclusion that “there is no evidence for a threshold for the carcinogenic effect of asbestos” and that “the most efficient way to eliminate asbestos-related diseases is to stop the use of all types of asbestos,” the government should apply the precautionary principle and proceed to a **ban on asbestos** through phasing out the use and export of asbestos
- **Remediation and clean up of asbestos-laden sites** that pose a risk to human health or the environment
- End the Canadian government's attempts to block **improved international health and safety conventions**, such as the Rotterdam convention
- Work with provinces to develop a **national asbestos disease registry**