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August 23, 2010

Hon. Yves Bolduc, M.D.,
Minister of Health and Social Services
Government of Québec,
Québec.

Subject : **Safe use of asbestos**

Dear Minister Bolduc:

As Quebec medical doctors, we wish to inform you that the “*safe use of asbestos*” which has persuaded you to join in the decision of the Quebec cabinet to support the re-opening of the Jeffrey mine, is, in terms of public health protection, a fantasy. It is an illusion lacking any foundation, one that has been created and propagated by an organisation with a vested interest and without any scientific credibility, the *Chrysotile Institute*.

The so-called “*safe use of asbestos*” is so inapplicable in reality that the world has been forced to recognize that, for this precise reason, the only way to protect humanity against the risks of asbestos is to completely renounce the use of this material. Consequently, from every side there is the demand that the mining, transformation and all use of asbestos be banned.

The repeated referral to the “*safe use of asbestos*” is part of a deliberate effort to drug public opinion in order to prevent our fellow citizens from perceiving the scandalous character of our country’s policy towards the asbestos problem, a policy which has caused us to be regarded as hypocrites and dishonest in the eyes of the rest of the planet.

As medical doctors, our professional obligation, which you share with us, requires that we denounce any scientific fraud likely to threaten the health of the population. *The safe use of asbestos* is a fraudulent representation in terms of the protection of public health and we submit to you that you have the duty to make your cabinet colleagues understand this.

We are at your disposal to assist you to face up to this perilous obligation, which is unavoidable, given the authority that your fellow citizens have entrusted to you with regard to the protection of public health.

Yours sincerely,



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On behalf of:

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