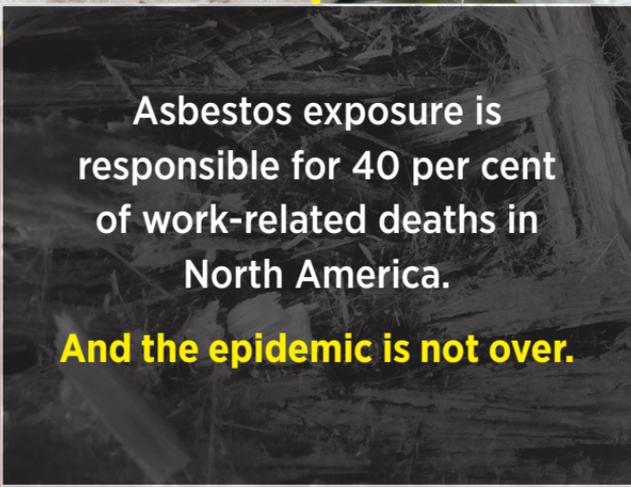




ASBESTOS THE LETHAL LEGACY



Asbestos exposure is
responsible for 40 per cent
of work-related deaths in
North America.

And the epidemic is not over.

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ASBESTOS THE LETHAL LEGACY

The number one killer. Asbestos exposure is responsible for 40% of workplace deaths in North America. Thousands of workers have died, with 600 new fatalities in Canada each year.

There is no cure. The fatal lung diseases mesothelioma and asbestosis typically remain latent for 10 to 20 years before diagnosis. The terminal stages resemble suffocation.

It may only take once. While some people are exposed their entire life to asbestos without lung damage, a few are impacted by a single known exposure. There are no safe levels.

Industry hid the hazards. For decades, industry suppressed medical and scientific knowledge that linked asbestos to lung disease. The connection was understood as early as 1947. But it was not until a lawsuit settlement in 1972 that industry officials were finally forced to admit they knew the relationship.

It's not just workers. Before the dangers were well known, workers carried asbestos home on their clothing, used it for home insulations, and even gave to their children as modelling clay. But asbestos is in thousands of buildings people live and work in today – including schools, hospitals and offices – constructed before 1990.

Removal is the best solution. It's a myth that “undisturbed” asbestos poses no risk. As buildings age, so do the paints and other coatings that supposedly “seal” the asbestos and render it harmless. Proper removal under strict health and safety guidelines is the only real guarantee.

Dangerous discards. While standards are in place for safe asbestos removal and disposal, unscrupulous contractors routinely save costs by illegally dumping asbestos materials in parks, undeveloped lands and, in at least one case, an elementary school playground.

Imports continue. Canada banned the production and export of asbestos in 2018. However, there are two product exemptions: The Canadian military can use asbestos products to service equipment until 2029, and the chlor-alkali industry can use it in bleach production until 2030.
