

Asbestos Use and Export

PSAC NBoD Resolution

November 2012

First Century

- Pliny the Elder reported on Roman slaves having sickened lungs from weaving asbestos into cloth

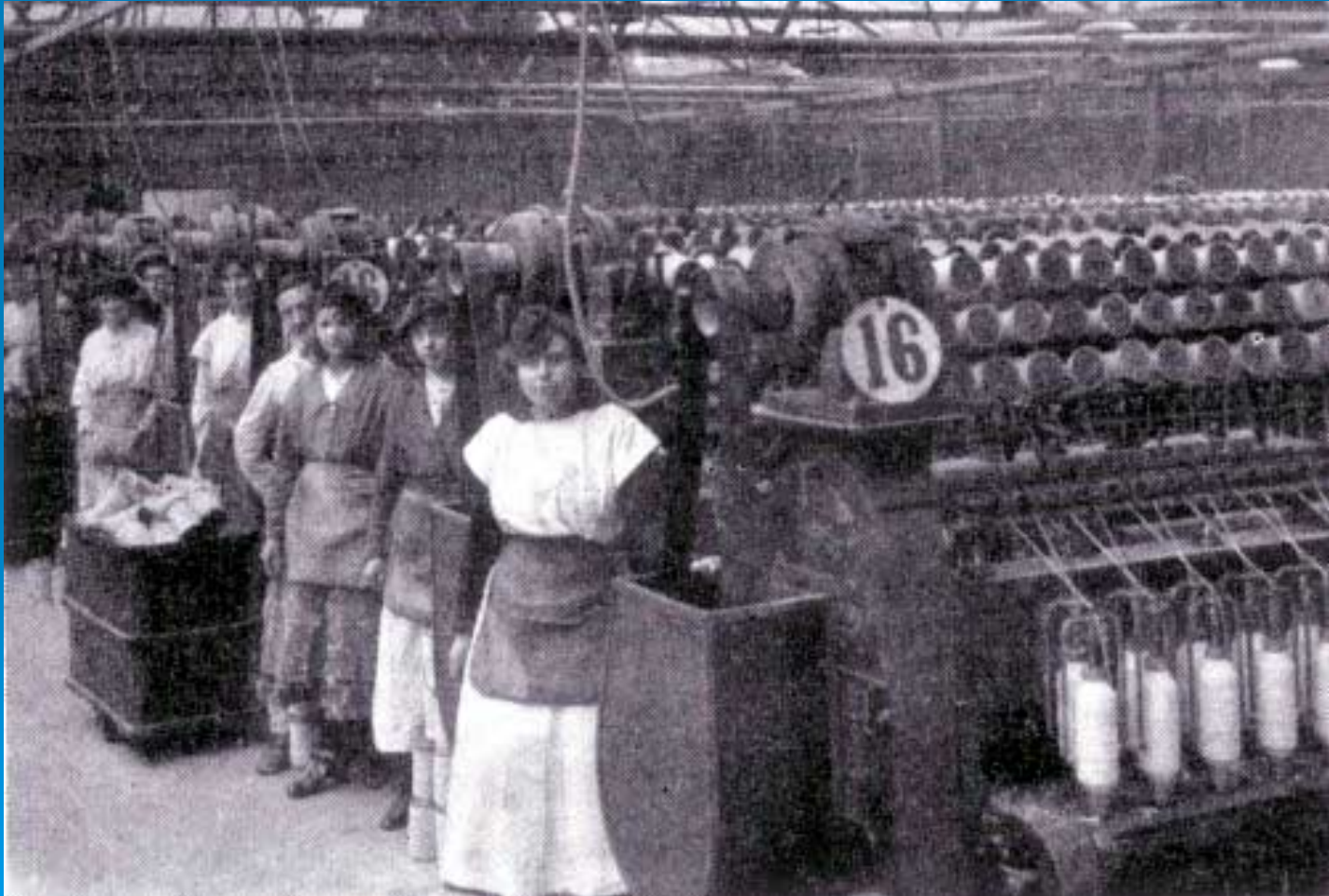


Charlemagne 800 AD used asbestos napkins

- He threw soiled napkins into the fire and they came out clean



Asbestos plant in London, England 1910: Life insurance denied to all asbestos workers



1960 – 1970

Asbestos
insulation
sprayers



Stopped using Asbestos insulation halfway through building the World Trade Centre buildings



Dust that includes Asbestos September 11, 2001



Asbestos in the workplace



Around beams



Ceilings
(used for
noise as well
as fire
insulation)



HAROLD HOLT MEMORIAL
SWIMMING POOL MALVERN
3,000 sq. feet for Noise Reduction
and Thermal Insulation

Thermal Insulation



Deteriorated insulation



Around Boilers



Around Pipes



Asbestos Cement



In Ceiling Tiles



In floor tiles



When asbestos deteriorates
it becomes "friable"



What is asbestos?

- It is a natural fibre found in the ground



Chrysotile: represents 95% of world asbestos production



Advantages

- It's perfect for insulation
- fireproof and virtually indestructible
- Great for brake pads and many other products



Disadvantages

All forms of asbestos have been shown in scientific studies to cause asbestos diseases, including lung cancer and mesothelioma



Canada's export of asbestos

- Canada promotes chrysotile asbestos as "safe"
- Where is our asbestos used in developing countries?



Asbestos is used in roofs in Brazil where it crumbles directly onto the people who live there





Asbestos bags leak



Brazilian worker breaking open asbestos bags



Working with Asbestos in Peru



Asbestos in Peru



Asbestos Use in India

- Shows how little protection there is in developing countries for either workers and for the general population



There is a water spray on the blade of the circular saw but the worker's hair is white with asbestos



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Asbestos in Pakistan

Workers standing beside an asbestos dump at the Asbestos, Talc and Clay Crushing unit in Mohmand Agency, Pakistan



Asbestos sheet cutting unit in Mardan City located on the main road in a residential area



Inside this building is a flour mill; while outside is an asbestos crushing machine and an asbestos dump



ASBESTOS LEGACY IN QUEBEC



No protection in the early days, King mine, Québec, 1896



Source: SAHRA - Fonds Galerie de nos ancêtres
de l'or blanc
(Donateur: Marcel Paquet)

Women also had no protection Johnson mine, 1930

Source: SAHRA - Fonds Galerie de nos ancêtres
de l'or blanc
(Donateur: Irénée Turcotte)



Asbestos Strike 1949



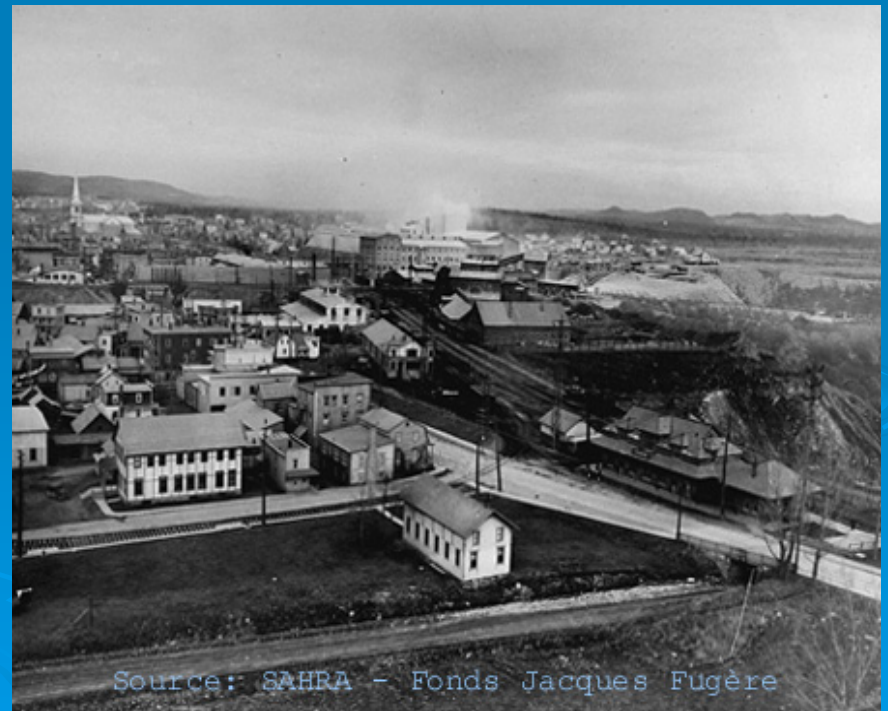
Privy Council Advisor 1949 – 1951



Thetford Mines 1950



Source: SAHRA - Fonds Jacques Fugère




Source: SAHRA - Fonds Jacques Fugère

Mining Tailings Thetford Mines 2002



Just Transition Program Needed

- Relocation assistance for miners and residents
 - Retraining for workers
 - Income continuity
 - Pensions security
- 
- The background of the slide features several sets of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water, positioned in the lower right quadrant.

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- This is no longer a scientific issue or a legal issue.
- It should be considered through the lens of our social justice role as well as an organisational moral issue.

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- WHEREAS the International Labour Organization estimates that 100,000 workers die per year from cancer caused by asbestos and unknown tens of thousands of other workers are dying from asbestosis and other asbestos related diseases; and

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- WHEREAS Canada is the world's second biggest exporter of chrysotile asbestos; and

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- WHEREAS Canada exports to the developing world where there are poor, if any, safeguards for the use of asbestos; and

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- WHEREAS the Canadian government promotes the sale of asbestos to these countries by financing the Asbestos/Chrysotyle Institute, a Canadian based organization which has been lobbying for increased asbestos use around the world since the mid-1980's:

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PSAC call on the Canadian Government to ban the export of asbestos and to withdraw its financial and political support from the Asbestos/Chrysotyle Institute; and

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the PSAC call on the Canadian Government to work with the unions and communities to ensure a just transition program for workers in the asbestos mines and surrounding communities is established with the understanding that the fight for a cleaner and healthy environment must include social justice for workers; and

PSAC Asbestos Resolution

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the PSAC lobby for a world wide ban on the use of asbestos and will promote the removal and replacement of asbestos with safe substitutes.