



# AREA Fund seeks answers to why many asbestos victims don't seek compensation

ALL ASBESTOS IS CARCINOGENIC. There is no safe way to use it, no safe exposure limit and no cure for the painful, debilitating diseases it creates. Asbestos-related diseases are the number-one occupational killer in B.C. and have been for years.

Dave Ford, an electrician, was just one of the workers who died of mesothelioma in 2008. After struggling with serious medical and compensation issues in Canada, his family turned to the U.S. for medical attention and financial compensation that they couldn't get here at home. Not wanting others to face the same obstacles, the Ford family started a registered Canadian charity to support asbestos-related initiatives—the Asbestos-related Research, Education & Advocacy Fund (AREA Fund).

The latency period between exposure to asbestos and diagnosis of an asbestos-related disease is 20 to 50 years. Progressively higher numbers of workers are expected to be diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases over the next 10 to 15 years. If you think you've been exposed to

asbestos, please let your doctor know. If you've been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease, please contact WorkSafeBC 1-888-WORKERS (1-888-967-5377).

Asbestos is odourless, tasteless and invisible, and sadly it was used in thousands of building products for decades, which means that it's still all around us, even if we're not aware of it. It's in our homes, our schools, our hospitals—our lives.

AREA's mission is to raise funds for asbestos-related research, education and advocacy projects, and to raise awareness of the devastating effects of asbestos use. Co-founders, Tracy and Lesley Ford, have established strong relationships with the BC Federation of Labour, WorkSafeBC, the Canadian Cancer Society and several labour unions. Over the past 18 months they have spoken at the launch of WorkSafeBC's new asbestos-specific website [www.hiddenkiller.ca](http://www.hiddenkiller.ca) and various labour events and health and safety conferences. A walk is being organized for the fall of 2012 to raise awareness about this issue.

## Workers removing asbestos with no protection

The owner of several asbestos and drywall removal companies in Metro Vancouver may be facing jail time for exposing his workers, most still in their teens and recovering from addictions, to airborne asbestos fibres, according to Canadian Press.

Arthur Moore, owner of AM Environmental, Tri City Hazmat, Surrey Hazmat and Pro Can Environmental, did not talk to his employees about the dangers of asbestos nor hand out the proper safety equipment. In some cases, employees were only given gloves.

The B.C. Supreme Court found that Moore did not provide proper safety training or equipment to his workers and was exploiting young recovering addicts as part of his work force. One worker told the court that Moore gave his young workers the instruction "run" if a WorkSafeBC inspector comes to a job site.

The B.C. Court of Appeal ruled that Moore was in contempt of court for violating a court injunction to stop work.

WorkSafeBC, which brought the legal action against Moore, said it will seek jail time for him, according to the news service.

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For more information on working conditions in toy factories, visit the following sites:

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- [www.maquilasolidarity.org](http://www.maquilasolidarity.org)
- [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)
- [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)
- [www.csa.ca](http://www.csa.ca)



Tradetalk will carry more information in upcoming editions.

The AREA Fund is raising funds for the Mesothelioma Awareness and Compensation Project which aims to determine why so few mesothelioma patients apply for compensation and why physicians may, or may not, provide advice to patients on occupational disease and compensation. "In order to ensure that victims and their families are getting the compensation and support that they need—and that is rightfully theirs—it's important to determine why so few apply for compensation," said Tracy Ford.

To learn more, or to make a donation to the AREA Fund, visit the "Projects" page at [www.areafund.ca](http://www.areafund.ca).

If you have a story about how asbestos has impacted your life, you can share it on the "Your Stories" page of the AREA Fund website. Send an email, 500 words or less and no more than one photo, to [admin@areafund.ca](mailto:admin@areafund.ca).