



**Asbestos Diseases Symposium,
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Eudice Goldberg, MD, FRCPC
Co-founder and Director, CMF

The Need for an Asbestos Disease Health Care Network in Canada



The Need for an Asbestos Disease Health Care Network in Canada: Rationale

- Scope of asbestos – related cancers in Canada:
 - Incidence of mesothelioma: 500 + new cases per year
 - Up to approximately 2100 new lung cancers per year
 - Also related to cancer of the larynx, ovary, pharynx, stomach and colon

- *Paul Demers, Ph.D.
 - Occupational Cancer Research Centre
 - Cancer Care Ontario



The Need for an Asbestos Disease Health Care Network in Canada: Rationale

- Extent of Disease
- Other Issues:
 - Need for early detection
 - Access to state-of-the-art care:
 - Geography
 - Knowledge of resources
 - Timely referral
 - Ongoing care and support
 - Knowledge of clinical trials and latest science re asbestos-related cancers
 - Compensation



Goals of Health Care Professional Network:

- Build a community of care and concern around asbestos diseases in Ontario and rest of Canada
- Improve awareness amongst health professionals, leading to increased identification of health conditions linked to asbestos
- Support early identification of mesothelioma and other cancers and timely referral and mobilization of expertise
- Provide information to aid the health care community in referring patients for compensation



Developing the health professional network: First steps

- Identification of areas in Canada with relatively higher incidence and prevalence of asbestos diseases
- Identification of existing resources with expertise in those geographic locations
- Identification of gaps in health care resources
- Identification of service providers in areas where expertise doesn't exist
- Aiding with appropriate referrals for compensation



Developing the health professional network: Subsequent steps

- Networking of resources with expertise and and other non-expert resources in communities with higher incidence and prevalence of asbestos cancers
- Developing on-going communication with these health-care providers, with provision of resources, information re clinical trials and updated scientific literature on asbestos cancers
- Development of strategy to reach primary care health professionals with important information about asbestos cancers



Projected outcome of a health professional network

- To reach the goals of the health professional network:
 - Build a community of care and concern around asbestos diseases in Ontario and rest of Canada
 - Improve awareness amongst health professionals, leading to increased identification of health conditions linked to asbestos
 - Support early identification of mesothelioma and other cancers and timely referral and mobilization of expertise
 - Provide information to aid the health care community in referring patients for compensation

