



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer

# The Power of The Story: Advocating for Canada's First Asbestos Registry



Donna Pasiechnik  
Manager, Tobacco Control, Media and Government Relations  
Canadian Cancer Society in Saskatchewan  
November 5, 2015





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Société canadienne du cancer



## **BILL**

No. 604

*An Act to amend *The Public Health Act, 1994* to provide for access to information relating to Asbestos in Public Buildings*



# Asbestos registry needed, says cancer patient

**Food plant inspector exposed to asbestos while working in older buildings**

CBC News | Posted: Feb 28, 2012 9:04 PM ET | Last Updated: Feb 28, 2012 10:58 PM ET



## REGION

- British Co
- Kamloops
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Saskatche
- Saskatoo
- Manitoba
- Thunder E
- Sudbury
- Windsor



letter  
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# The StarPhoenix



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## Cancer sufferer, NDP urge action on list

Bill to reveal buildings with asbestos

Joe Couture, The StarPhoenix; With Files From The Canadian Press

Published: Friday, November 02, 2012

A Saskatoon man dying from asbestos-related cancer and the Opposition NDP urged the provincial government to make available to everyone lists of public buildings that contain asbestos.

Howard Willems worked as a building inspector for 31 years and now has mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer resulting from inhaling asbestos fibres.

"Everyone has the right to know if a building they're going into has the potential for short-or long-term harm," Willems said in a phone interview Thursday, his shortness of breath obvious. "I have seen the pain and suffering my family has gone through and it's been very hard on them these last two years, and I don't want anyone to go through what I've gone through."



Willems's, 59 said his health is deteriorating more quickly than anticipated when he was diagnosed two years ago, noting he is on oxygen and medications constantly.

Asbestos was used in a lot of building materials, such as insulation and roofing, until the late 1970s. It is not considered harmful if undisturbed, but construction work can stir up hazardous fibres that can be inhaled.

The NDP on Thursday introduced a private member's bill in the legislature that would

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# Advocacy rule #1: Seize the Opportunity



Lung  
Association

Public Service  
Alliance of  
Canada

Sask Asbestos  
Disease  
Awareness  
Association



## Key messages

1. All forms of asbestos cause cancer.
2. Howard Willemms died because he was unknowingly exposed to asbestos on the job.
3. A mandatory public registry will reduce the risk of exposure and save lives.



## Secondary messages

1. Asbestos is the leading cause of industrial cancers and death in Canada.
2. 30% of worker deaths in SK asbestos related
3. More than 4200 workers in SK have been exposed to asbestos.
4. Everyone has the right to know if their workplace, school, daycare or nursing home is safe.



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## Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association

Kirby Benning - President | Suite 204 - 408 Broad St. | Regina, SK | S4R 1X3  
p: (306) 585-3580 | f: (306) 585-3451 | e: kbenning@spffa.com

February 11, 2013

Donna Ziegler  
Director, Cancer Control  
Canadian Cancer Society  
1910 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2R3

Ms. Ziegler

I am pleased to write you and offer our support to your efforts regarding

## CHIEFS OF POLICE

January 7, 2013

Donna Pasiechnik  
Manager, Tobacco Control, Media & Government Relations  
Canadian Cancer Society  
Saskatchewan Office  
1910 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK  
S4P 2R3

Dear Ms Pasiechnik:

Re: Bill 604, An Act to Amend The Public Health Act, 1994

The Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police supports amendments to The Public Health Act, 1994 provided for in Bill 604, a Private Member's Bill, which will require an electronic

JAN 09



## Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs

503 Beerling Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7S 1K5 Phone: 306.374.5919 Fax: 306.374.5926 Email: peggy-a@gmail.com

February 12, 2013

Donna Pasiechnik  
Canadian Cancer Society  
1910 McIntyre Street  
Regina SK S4P 2R3

Dear Ms Pasiechnik:

RE: Bill 604, An Act to Amend The Public Health Act, 1994

The Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs (SAFC) is in full support of the proposed amendments to "The Public Health Act, 1994" as provided in Bill 604. The SAFC is a special part of the process as it provides for the



Saskatchewan  
Emergency  
Medical  
Services  
Association

President  
Steve Skoworodko  
Wakaw & District EMS Ltd.  
Wakaw  
(306) 233-4308

Past-President  
Trevor Dutchak  
Parkland Ambulance Care Ltd.  
Prince Albert  
(306) 863-6382

Vice-President  
Gerry Schriemer  
M.D. Ambulance Care Ltd.  
Saskatoon  
(306) 975-8828

Secretary  
Kyle Sereda  
Moose Jaw & District EMS

February 6, 2013

Ms. Donna Pasiechnik  
Manager, Tobacco Control, Media & Government Relations  
Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan Office  
1910 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2R3

Dear Donna:

The Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Assoc. (SEMSA) is in support of a mandatory asbestos registry. First Responders and emergency service

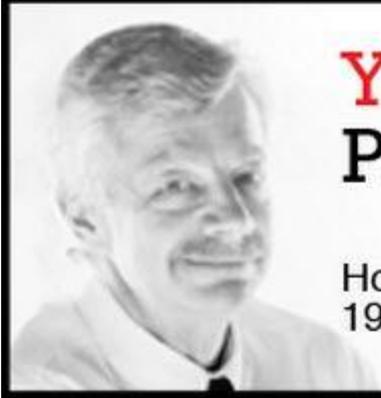
105 - 111 Research Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2  
Phone: (306) 382-2147  
Fax: (306) 955-5353  
E-mail: semsa@innovationplace.com



[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

[BACKGROUND INFORMATION](#)

[DOWNLOAD INFO](#)



**You have the **right** to know.  
Pass Howard's Law**

Howard Willems  
1952 – 2012



Howard Willems died of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos on the job. Howard fought for a public registry of buildings that contain asbestos.

Help us finish what he started.  
Let's get Howard's Bill passed.

Sign our petition today.

**SIGN THE PETITION**



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer



Howard Willem's  
1952 - 2012



**Asbestos in your school or office?**  
You have the **right** to know

Sign the petition or ask your MLA to  
Howard's Law. **PassHoward's Law**

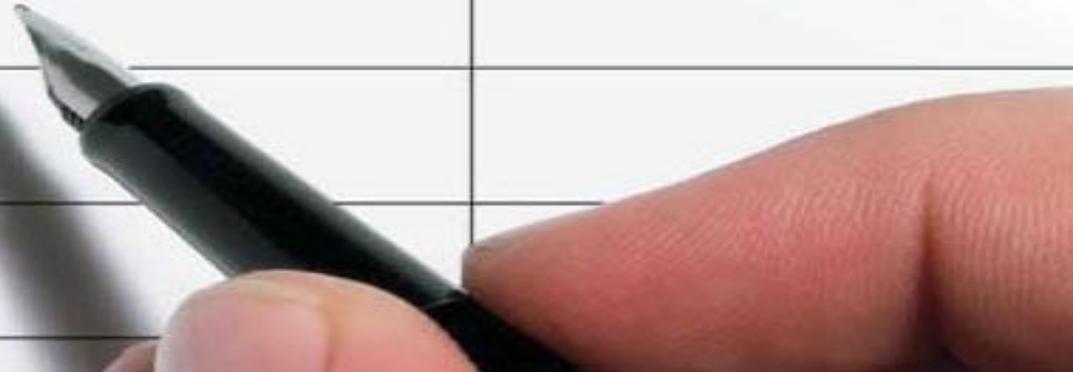
**PassHowardsLaw.ca**

- Carcinogenic
- Asbestos
- Asbestosis
- Lung Cancer
- Mesothelioma

**DANGER ASBESTOS**

**Howard Willem's fought for a public registry of buildings that contain asbestos.  
Help us finish what he started. Please sign our petition to get Howard's Law passed.**

E-MAIL	CONTACT	SIGNATURE



2012-2013  
Sue Millar  
Parliamentary Secretary





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## 2013 Impact Award for Leadership in Public Policy





CTV NEWS SASKATOON

CTV News Mobile CTV

LIVE NOW: Power Play

CTV Saskatoon Search

- NEWS
- VIDEO
- WEATHER
- MORNING LIVE
- PRINCE ALBERT
- CONTESTS
- ABOUT
- LOCAL

FEATURED

- Plane crashes near Prince Albert
- Tom Mulcair campaigns in Saskatoon
- Transit on election day
- Return to the Provincial Legislature
- Voter complaints prompt poll move in Saskatoon

## Highest award for man who battled for asbestos registry

NEWSGO

Asbestos registry warrior gets highest award

Asbestos registry warrior gets highest award

CTV Regina: Posthumous award given to Howard Willems for his leadership in asbestos awareness



SASKATOON WEATHER | [Change city](#)

16°C Scattered clouds



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# Howard's Law passes

Amendment to Public Health Act



April 18, 2013



# Howard's Law passes

## Amendment to Public Health Act

Public buildings include:

- owned by Government of Saskatchewan
- Prescribed Crown Corp or RHA
- Schools defined in Education Act
- Other prescribed enclosed structures
  
- and post info to website
  
- Owner must make info available to anyone during normal business hours

**April 18, 2013**



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# Growing pains...first attempt

Government of Saskatchewan  
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

11th Floor - 1945 Hamilton St.  
Regina, SK S4P 2C8

Please be advised that Carlton Trail Regional College is not aware of any asbestos in our currently owned or rented facilities.

If you have any questions, or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Andy Burgess  
Director of Finance



# Growing Pains ... second try



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Central  
Services

## Asbestos Register for 0001-01 Regina - Legislative Building

**Facility Type:** Office Building  
**Region:** Regina  
**Owner:** Ministry of Central Services  
**Address:** 2901 Albert St , Regina S4S 0B3  
**Building Name:** 0001-01 Regina - Legislative Building  
**Contact Person:** Bata, Steve **Title:** Building Manager  
**Phone:** 787-6610 **Email:** steve.bata@gov.sk.ca

Date Reported	Type	Friable	Location / Characteristics	Concentration	Accessibility
Apr 30, 2014	Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Various Locations - ENCAPSULATED		

**Search the Registry** *by city, address, building name, or type of building*



[Login to report asbestos >](#)

[Home](#) > [Legislative Building \(0001-01\)](#)

## Legislative Building (0001-01)

Ministry of Central Services

2901 Albert St

Regina SK



For additional information about managing and handling asbestos, see [Asbestos - Guidelines for Managing Asbestos in Buildings](#) at [saskatchewan.ca/asbestos](http://saskatchewan.ca/asbestos)

### Asbestos in this Facility

*Search within this facility*



**Crawlspace West**



**Crawlspace West**



**Crawlspace West**



**Crawlspace West**



**Basement - Radio Room**





# So far...

- In 6 months the landing page had 3000+ views but has fallen off
- It's been promoted through people uploading info & has been a priority on the upgraded government site (Saskatchewan.ca)
- very few calls have been received based on the site but Government has had inquiries from MB & AB
- Concerns that only including government owned buildings could create false sense of security
- post-secondary or independent schools are not listed, however, several sites have been uploaded voluntarily



# Next steps

- Registry first step in increasing awareness
- Saskatchewan Asbestos Advisory Committee (CCS a member)
- reviewing abatement processes and responsibilities
- Ensure employers educate workers on how to recognize and deal with asbestos containing materials