



January 31, 2019

Asbestos Working Group  
Ministry of Labour  
PO Box 9594, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9K4  
Sent by email: [LCS.LABOUR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LCS.LABOUR@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Asbestos Working Group,

**RE: Keeping Workers, the Public and the Environment Safe from Asbestos**

In December, the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) was pleased to see the Working Group Report. Thank you for taking the long-term health risks of asbestos seriously and recommending ways to reduce exposure to asbestos for homeowners, workers, the public and the environment.

In examining the potential actions identified in the report, BCREA offers three recommendations for the BC Government:

1. **Provide an equal and even-handed approach throughout the province.** Any provincial standards or training programs to reduce asbestos-related hazards must be implemented in all regions of the province. Please consider this recommendation when moving forward on all potential actions.
2. **Create a subsidy or rebate program to incentivize homeowners.** With high asbestos abatement costs, an incentive program would encourage homeowners to take steps to protect themselves and their environment from the dangers of asbestos. An incentive program would also encourage homeowners to avoid an underground economy in asbestos abatement work outside of regulatory oversight. This recommendation aligns with the Working Group's potential actions 11 and 14.
3. **Ensure sufficient capacity of qualified professionals.** While pre-demolition hazardous materials inspections and reports could be helpful, they can also be an additional burden on developers and homeowners. If there are insufficient qualified professionals to undertake inspections, then the renovation, demolition or building processes can be negatively impacted due to delays. Ensuring there are enough qualified professionals throughout the province—especially in rural areas—can mitigate this potential harm. This recommendation aligns with the Working Group's potential action 15.



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We appreciate the Working Group's recommendation to work closely with affected stakeholders. It is important to have a process that considers valuable, practical input from the industry perspective. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to advance solutions that reduce harms caused by asbestos.

BCREA is the professional association for about 23,000 REALTORS® in BC, focusing on provincial issues that impact real estate. Working with the province's 11 real estate boards, BCREA provides continuing professional education, advocacy, economic research and standard forms to help REALTORS® provide value for their clients.

To demonstrate the profession's commitment to improving Quality of Life in BC communities, BCREA supports policies that encourage economic vitality, provide housing opportunities, respect the environment and build communities with good schools and safe neighbourhoods.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene K Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darlene K. Hyde  
Chief Executive Officer

Copies:           Hon. Harry Bains, Minister of Labour (lbr.minister@gov.bc.ca)  
                      John Martin, MLA – Chilliwack (john.martin.mla@leg.bc.ca)