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The Chrysotile Institute, a Canadian advocacy group promoting the use of asbestos, has announced its plan to dissolve. The group was formed in 1984 (originally named the Asbestos Institute) and was funded by the Canadian government. The Institute has been controversial, because it has promoted the "safe use" of asbestos, despite the leading medical and scientific experts saying that there is no such thing as safe use of asbestos. Worldwide, it is estimated that more than 100,000 people die every year from asbestos-related causes, including malignant mesothelioma.

The asbestos industry has continued to produce and sell asbestos fiber internationally, mostly to third world nations that do not have adequate safety regulations to protect workers from asbestos exposure. More than 50 countries have banned the use of asbestos completely. However, the United States has not yet banned the fiber, due to the lobbying efforts of industry interests.

Read the **Montreal Gazette article**.