



GPC Report

Date: July 8, 2014 **From:** Councillors Alto and Isitt
Subject: Enforce the Westray Amendments to Canada's Criminal Code

MOTION

WHEREAS it has been more than two decades since the Westray mine disaster in Nova Scotia and a decade since amendments were made to the Criminal Code of Canada to hold corporations, their directors and executives criminally accountable for the health and safety of workers;

AND WHEREAS police and prosecutors do not appear to be utilizing the Westray amendments, and do not appear to be investigating workplace fatalities through the lens of criminal accountability;

AND WHEREAS approximately 1,000 workers are killed at work each year in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Victoria City Council write to the Minister of Justice and Premier of British Columbia, urging the Provincial government to ensure that:

- Crown attorneys are educated, trained and directed to apply the Westray amendments;
- Dedicated prosecutors are given the responsibility for health and safety fatalities;
- Police are educated, trained and directed to apply the Westray amendments;
- There is greater coordination among regulators, police and Crown attorneys so that health and safety regulators are trained to reach out to police when there is a possibility that Westray amendment charges are warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alto".

Councillor Alto

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Ben Isitt