



## City of Powell River

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File No. 0220-01

August 26, 2014

Union of BC Municipalities  
60 – 10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
24 Clarence Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3

**Re: Worker Protection through the Westray Act**

Dear UBCM and FCM Executive:

Please note that at the Council meeting on August 21, 2014 Powell River City Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

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 are not utilizing the Westray amendments, and not investigating workplace fatalities through the lens of criminal accountability; and

WHEREAS more than 1,000 workers a year are killed at work;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council support a campaign to urge our federal and provincial governments 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.

We encourage your organizations to take this message to senior levels of government, to ensure that corporations, their directors and executives are held accountable for worker health and safety.

Yours truly,  
CITY OF POWELL RIVER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marie Claxton', with a long, sweeping underline.

Marie Claxton, CMC  
City Clerk  
MC:pw  
Ec: Stephen Hunt  
United Steelworkers