

STOP THE **KILLING.**
ENFORCE THE LAW.



A GUIDE TO LOBBYING



WHAT IS LOBBYING?

Lobbying is really about talking to politicians – people who are supposed to represent our interests at the municipal and provincial levels of government.

WHY ARE WE LOBBYING?

At the municipal – or local – level, we are seeking municipal council support for a resolution that reinforces what we are seeking at the provincial level.

Municipal support is a building block to establish wide public support to convince attorneys-general to direct prosecutors and police to enforce the Westray amendments to the *Criminal Code*.

We also need Steelworkers to talk to their provincial representatives, called Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) in some provinces, or Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Members of the House of Assembly (MHA) or Members of the National Assembly (MNA).

Every activist has one of these representatives, who are usually eager to meet with their constituents/voters. It doesn't matter what political party's colours they wear – we need to find out their position on our campaign.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR?

At the municipal level, we want support for the resolution.

At the provincial level, we are asking every provincial politician:

“Will you support the campaign to ensure that the 2004 amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* are enforced? If not, why not?”

2. Call to arrange a meeting in the local constituency office – or the legislature if your riding is in a capital city.
3. Plan to go with at least one other Steelworker, but no more than three. Tell them that you don't want to take up too much of their time.
4. When you arrive, introduce yourselves and who you represent. Explain the campaign using Talking Points enclosed in the kit, along with the essential goal of the campaign as laid out in the resolution passed at municipalities.
5. Meetings with provincial politicians can proceed whether or not you have successfully got the StoptheKilling resolution passed in you city or town.
6. Appropriate dress for meeting with politicians in their riding is business casual.
7. The bottom line at this meeting is to find out whether the MLA/ MPP/MNA supports our campaign. If not, why not?
8. If they are not willing to commit, ask what further information they would need and promise to provide it to them.
9. Leave the politician with a copy of the resolution and the "Beyond Westray document.
10. If you provide them with additional information, wait a couple of weeks and ask to meet again with the same question: do you support this campaign to enforce the law?
11. After the first meeting (and if you don't plan to return), fill out the feedback form in the kit and return it to your District Health and Safety Coordinator. The form is also available on www.StoptheKilling.ca so that you can email it to your District Co-ordinator

WHAT TO SAY TO THE POLITICIANS

- In 2013 a campaign was launched called Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law.
- The campaign is aimed at better enforcement of *Criminal Code* amendments that together are known as the Westray Bill.
- Named after the senseless and preventable deaths of 26 miners at the Westray Mine in Nova Scotia in 1992, the Westray Bill passed unanimously in the House of Commons in 2003. It was proclaimed into law in early 2004.
- It is intended to make corporations, their directors and executives criminally accountable for the death and injury of workers.
- It was considered a great victory for workers and their families.
- In more than ten years since the law was passed, governments, regulators, police and crown counsels have not effectively used the law. That means they have rarely investigated workplace death as a possible crime scene.
- Thousands of workers have died at work since the Westray amendments were passed. These workers, and their survivors, are victims of negligence and a law that has not been properly enforced.
- Employers have not had the legal scrutiny that the Westray amendments suggest should take place. They get away with fines and plea bargains that allow them to continue “business as usual”.
- Not every workplace death is like Westray, full of deliberate actions that lead to tragedy. But they MUST be investigated as if they could be.
- If somebody dies in my house, the police would isolate it as a potential crime scene. Workplaces should be treated likewise, not turned over to WCB investigators.

- This is a never-ending struggle. Without workers being constantly vigilant, the bosses will get away with killing us.
- We are asking you to support the campaign to Stop the Killing and Enforce the Law.
- The bottom line is to convince provincial attorneys-general to insist that police and prosecutors – as well as the regulators – ensure that every workplace tragedy is investigated through the lens of the Westray amendments to the *Criminal Code*.
- Workplace killing is a crime and must be treated as one.
- We have buried too many workers – and still those responsible get away with little more than fines.
- We have to make the justice system work and end the slaughter.
- We owe it to every family that has lost a loved one to force police and prosecutors to uphold the law, and to make the justice system work.
- Fines are not enough.