

MOTION

7. Resourcing Local Governments for Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Emergency Planning and Response

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Reimer

WHEREAS

1. Oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) are being transported through or near communities in British Columbia, and proposals to increase the volume of these substances are currently being considered without adequate consideration for the risks to local communities;
2. The increased transport of these products translates to an increased risk to local communities from incidents such as fires, explosions and spills, with the potential to cause significant impacts to health and safety of citizens, first responders and the environment, and require the involvement of local governments to minimize the consequences to their communities;
3. Despite their vital role in safeguarding their communities and identifying the local risks and consequences of potential incidents, local governments have not been adequately involved in risk assessment and response planning carried out by industry, project proponents and other tiers of government, and are not sufficiently resourced to participate in the risk assessment and planning process, let alone respond to the impacts of oil and HNS incidents on their communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) call on the provincial and federal governments to expand the scope of oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) risk assessment and response planning to include all impacts and consequences on local communities and governments, and introduce additional funding for the resources and locally-specific capacity building required to ensure that municipalities are in the best possible position to plan for and protect communities and the environment in the event of fires, explosions, spills and related incidents as a result of increasing transportation of oil and HNS.

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