



Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Box 9041, Station PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

June 5, 2015

Dear Minister Bond,

On behalf of Council and the City of Victoria I'm writing to provide our support for a proposed Presumptive Clause and changes to the *Workers Compensation Act* to allow first responders to receive the support and treatment that they need for mental health injuries sustained on the job.

On April 15, 2015 the City received a request and documentation from Lisa Jennings, paramedic and founder of a grass roots movement regarding the lack of a Presumptive Clause and further changes to the present WorkSafe BC Legislation. As we, the citizens of British Columbia, rely on our First Responders to protect us in our greatest times of need, we feel strongly that we need to support them when they are in need of our support.

It is imperative that the requested changes are supported in whole, and be added to the *Workers Compensation Act*. We can no longer sit by when our First Responders are considering and acting upon suicide as an alternative to receiving the urgent treatment they require, once sustaining a work-related mental health injury. This has been confirmed in a letter by Dr. Morley, a psychologist and specialist in trauma who has treated First Responders with PTSD and other mental health disorders. We cannot ignore that evidence is in the rise in the suicides to date: six paramedics, three fire fighters and 13 Peace Officers have committed suicide since January 1, 2015, of those statistics that have been reported.

Victoria City Council affirms its support the proposed Presumptive Clause and changes to the *Workers Compensation Act*, to support those who put their lives in danger to take care of the citizens of British Columbia. And more importantly, we support these changes to prevent the loss of any more lives.

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Please find attached a copy of the Resolution passed at our Council meeting of May 28, 2015.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Helps', is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc: Honorable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia

Encl.