

# Task Force Findings

Task Force on American Iron & Metal (AIM) Operations and  
September 14, 2023 Fire

## FINDING 1

**The EIA submitted by AIM in 2010 was insufficient in many material respects and did not adequately address key environmental issues or events such as fires, explosions, and the potential release of contaminating substances.**

## FINDING 2

**AIM's operations and its risks are significantly different than those AIM presented at the time it obtained its regulatory approval to operate an industrial metal shredder and expanded its site more than 6-fold.**

## FINDING 3

**The scrap metal piles maintained by AIM at the AIM site exceeded the size recommended in the EIA and prescribed by the National Fire Code by 2 to 2.5 times.**

## FINDING 4

**AIM did not, and does not, have an emergency plan capable of effectively responding to the September 14, 2023 fire or a similar fire in the future.**

## FINDING 5

**The SJFD was not, and is not, equipped or resourced to effectively respond to the September 14, 2023 fire or a similar fire in the future at the AIM site.**

## FINDING 6

**The City of Saint John water resources were not, and are not, sufficient to effectively respond to the September 14, 2023 fire or a similar fire in the future at the AIM site.**

## FINDING 7

**Had the Osprey not been in port on September 14, 2023, the repercussions for the community would have been disastrous.**

## FINDING 8

**The AIM site was contaminated as a result of the September 14, 2023 fire. Contaminants were also released into the air and the water, and significant additional testing and analysis is required to assess the existence and scope of the environmental and human health impacts to protect the citizens of Saint John.**

## FINDING 9

**AIM operations carry a significant risk of explosion and fire, with a high likelihood of future fires at the AIM site, including a material risk that a catastrophic fire similar to that of September 14, 2023 could recur.**

## FINDING 10

**The location of the AIM operation, in the middle of the Saint John community, adjacent to the harbour and a residential neighbourhood, is entirely inappropriate given its now known hazards and risks.**

## FINDING 11

**The negative socio-economic impacts of the AIM operations at its present site are unacceptable to the City of Saint John, its residents, and surrounding communities.**

## FINDING 12

**The AIM operations are an environmental, health and safety risk to Saint John, surrounding communities and their citizens.**