

Ethics News – October 16, 2019

A recent roundup of commentary on ethical issues currently affecting organizations.

"145 businesses signed the gun control letter — but many more didn't" (By Ben Popken for *NBC News*)

This one is about whether, and when, it is safe for a company to speak out on social issues.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/145-businesses-signed-gun-control-letter-many-more-didn-t-n1053301>

"Is the Polaris RZR the New 'Ford Pinto'?" (by Ethics Centre board member Chris MacDonald, for *the Business Ethics Blog*)

The Polaris RZR is an off-road recreational vehicle prone to catching fire. This case harkens back to the Ford Pinto, a subcompact car that faced similar issues back in the early 1970s.

<https://businessethicsblog.com/2019/09/09/is-the-polaris-rzr-the-new-ford-pinto/>

"Boeing 737 Max Safety System Was Vetoed, Engineer Says" (NY Times)

This one is about how Boeing ignored an internal ethics complaint filed by a senior engineer about corners that had been cut on safety -- corner-cutting that ultimately resulted in two planes crashing, and hundreds of deaths.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/business/boeing-737-max-crashes.html>

"Amazon Pushes Fast Shipping but Avoids Responsibility for the Human Cost" (NY Times)

This longer read from the NY Times explains the complex system that Amazon uses to deliver billions of packages a year -- a system that has also proven effective in insulating the company for responsibility when delivery drivers cause injury or death.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/05/us/amazon-delivery-drivers-accidents.html>

ETHICS CENTRE is dedicated to promoting the importance of ethical decision making to support culture in Canadian organizations.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas – please contact Lois Marsh at lmars@ethicscentre.ca

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