



April 28, 2015 |

Statements

## BC Federation of Labour Statement on National Day of Mourning

**VANCOUVER** – The following is a statement from Irene Lanzinger, President of the BC Federation of Labour, marking the National Day of Mourning:

The National Day of Mourning, marked every year on April 28, is a very important day for workers.

It is a day to remember all those who have lost their lives or been injured because of their work. It is a day to honour the families, friends and co-workers who are left behind when a worker dies, or who must care for their family members who have been seriously injured.

It is also a day to reflect and renew our commitment to continue the fight for healthier and safer workplaces; for greater accountability of negligent employers; and for full compensation for injured workers and survivors.

Today we will gather with friends, family and co-workers to mourn for the 203 workers who lost their lives in British Columbia in 2014 as a result of their work, and to acknowledge the thousands of workers who were injured or became sick because of work.

In 2014, nearly 4 workers died in BC each week.

Across Canada, more than 3 workers died each day.

Around the world, 1 worker dies every 15 seconds.

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These numbers are devastating. One worker death is too many.

We need to do better. The government, the Workers' Compensation Board, and employers need to do more – and need to be held accountable.

The National Day of Mourning is recognized in over 100 countries. It began with a motion passed in 1984 by the Canadian Labour Congress, and was official adopted by the federal government in 1991.

The BC Federation of Labour encourages everyone to attend a Day of Mourning ceremony in your community to mark this important day, fly your flags at half-mast, and observe a minute of silence at 11:00 am on April 28, 2015.

“Mourn for the dead, fight for the living.” ~ Mother Jones

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For a full list of Day of Mourning events, please visit [www.bcfed.ca/events](http://www.bcfed.ca/events).

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