

Day of MOURNING



Backgrounder

Canada

- The national Day of Mourning is observed in Canada on April 28. The day honours the memory of workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness as a result of work-related incidents.
- The Canadian Labour Congress first recognized the Day of Mourning in 1984. In 1991, this day became a national observance with the passing of the Workers Mourning Day Act, and on April 28, 1991, the federal government officially proclaimed the national Day of Mourning.
- Canada was the first nation to recognize the Day of Mourning and since 1984, acknowledgement of the day has spread to many countries and is now observed throughout the world.
- Typically, the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill is flown at half-mast, and workers and employees observe the day in various ways including wearing ribbons, lighting candles, and observing moments of silence.

British Columbia

- Since 1997, the BC Federation of Labour, the Business Council of British Columbia, and WorkSafeBC have co-hosted a public commemorative ceremony for the Day of Mourning in Vancouver, B.C.
- In 2001, WorkSafeBC, the BC Federation of Labour, and the Business Council of British Columbia dedicated a permanent workers' memorial in the Sanctuary in Hastings Park, Vancouver.
- There are approximately 45 permanent worker memorial sites sponsored by WorkSafeBC in British Columbia.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the difficult decision was made to cancel the in-person ceremony in 2021, with an online video and moment of silence taking its place.
- The 2021 Day of Mourning ceremony will be available at 10:30 am on Wednesday, April 28th, 2021, at dayofmourning.bc.ca.