



NEW WESTMINSTER &
DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

Stephen Crozier, President
Janet Andrews, Secretary-Treasurer
Chartered By The Canadian Labour Congress

Mayor Val Van Den Broek
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor Van Den Broek and members of Council,

The New Westminster & District Labour Council represents over 60,000 affiliated union members in 14 communities in the Lower Mainland. On behalf of our members and their families living and/or working in your community, we request your Council declare **April 28th** as the official "*Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job*".

We also request that Council **observe one minute of silence** in the Council Chambers at the evening Council meeting **on or before April 28th**.

In 1984 our national organization, the Canadian Labour Congress, introduced the annual day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job. April 28th was chosen because this was the day that the third reading took place for the first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act (Ontario 1914) in Canada. The "Workers Mourning Day Act" (Bill C223) became law on February 1, 1991, an Act which states "the day of April 28th shall be respected as the day of official recognition". The day of recognition was proclaimed by the government of British Columbia in 1989.

Our focus this year is safety for all workers because "*One is too many, no one should die on the job.*" Recent Canadian research demonstrates that work-related fatalities could be as much as 10 to 13 times higher than official data indicates. Workers deserve to arrive home safely at the end of their workday, and given that workplace deaths are fundamentally preventable, then indeed, one is too many. This year we join the CLC in calling on all governments to enforce the laws, including the Westray provisions in the Criminal Code, and occupational health and safety laws because worker death and injury impact not only our families but also our communities.

There will be remembrances across Canada on April 28th for workers who have been killed on the job, and to recognize those who have suffered from workplace injury, accident or disease. On April 28th we mourn for those who have died from workplace accidents or disease but we also recommit ourselves to fight for the living.

If your Council **issues proclamations**, a copy of our Proclamation is enclosed to assist Council in endorsing the "Workers Day of Mourning".

We thank-you for your leadership in your workplace by encouraging your staff to **observe one minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on April 28th**.

Sincerely,

Janet Andrews
Secretary- Treasurer

JA/cb

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NWDLC **NWDLC.CA**

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Every year, more than 1,000 Canadian workers are killed on the job.

AND WHEREAS: Thousands more are permanently disabled.

AND WHEREAS: Hundreds of thousands are injured.

AND WHEREAS: Thousands of others die from cancer, lung disease, and other ailments caused by exposure to toxic substances at their workplaces.

AND WHEREAS: April 28 of each year has been chosen by the Canadian Labour Congress as:

- a Day of Mourning for these victims of workplace accidents and disease;
- a day to remember the maximum sacrifice they have been forced to make in order to earn a living;
- a day to renew approaches to governments for tougher occupational health and safety standards, and more effective Compensation;
- a day to rededicate ourselves to the goal of making Canada's workplaces safer.

AND WHEREAS: April 28th was proclaimed a "Day of Mourning" by an Act of Parliament on February 1st, 1991.

I _____, of _____
do hereby proclaim April 28 as an annual Day of Mourning in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

Signed: _____

