

APRIL ^{flame icon}28 NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

A resource guide for teachers
and students



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What is the National Day of Mourning?

Why we observe

Each year, hundreds of workers lose their lives on Canadian job sites. On April 28, we observe National Day of Mourning to honour those lives, and the loved ones left behind.

According to the Worker's Compensation Board, Alberta lost 165 people to workplace injuries or illnesses in 2019. Hundreds more workers were lost across Canada. With each worker tragedy there are family members, friends and co-workers left behind whose lives are deeply impacted and forever changed.

The National Day of Mourning is not only a day to remember and honour those lives lost or injured due to a workplace tragedy, but also a day to collectively renew our commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace and prevent further injuries, illnesses and deaths.

On April 28th the Canadian flag will fly at half-mast on Parliament Hill and on all federal government buildings. Employers and workers will observe Day of Mourning in a variety of ways. Some light candles, wear commemorative pins, ribbons or black armbands, and pause for a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m.

The National Day of Mourning is a stark reminder of why we do the work that we do. Too many families have been torn apart. Too many lives have been lost or changed forever, and it affects all of us. No paycheck is worth a life and no job is worth dying for.



History

Now an international observance as a day of mourning for workers killed, injured or made ill by their job, the declaration of April 28th as the Day of Mourning began here in Canada.

In 1984, unions in Sudbury, Ontario, adopted the day as one to publicly acknowledge workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths, and the Canadian Labour Congress officially declared the day of remembrance. The date of April 28th was chosen to reflect the anniversary of the day Ontario passed the Workers' Compensation Act in 1914.

On April 28, 1991, Canada recognized its first National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace: a day where flags fly at half-mast, and we hold ceremonies across the country to recognize the lives needlessly lost, and the tremendous suffering of those left in the wake of workplace tragedy. In the years since, more than 100 other countries have also adopted the observance known widely as Workers' Memorial Day.



Ways to observe

Public ceremonies and events

Most years, hundreds of public and private ceremonies in observance of the National day of Mourning take place across the country. Many ceremonies are hosted by labour, education or industry safety organizations.

Ceremonies typically include a moment of silence, wreath laying or candle lighting, and sometimes include remarks from individuals or families whose lives have been affected by workplace tragedies.

This year, Day of Mourning events are not able to go ahead as planned, due to ongoing public gathering restrictions in the face of COVID-19. Fortunately, today's technology makes it possible for many of these events to take place online.

Safety in Schools reached out to organizations across the country to find information about online Day of Mourning ceremonies and activities to ensure that educators and students can observe and participate in this important day.

Please see our comprehensive listing of online events on the next page.

Steps for Life Walk

Steps for Life Walks raise funds and awareness for Threads of Life, which supports the healing journey of families who have suffered from a workplace fatality, traumatic life-altering injury, or occupational disease.

Although Threads of Life has made the decision not to host traditional community walks this year, organizers encourage you to choose an activity to participate in on your own or with your household to demonstrate your commitment to health and safety, and raise funds to support families affected by workplace tragedy.

Register online to connect with a virtual team and join thousands of other Canadians making a difference in the lives of Canadian families.

Visit www.stepsforlife.ca for more information or to register.

Online Event Listing

Visit our Day of Mourning blog for links and up-to-date information:

www.safetyinschools.ca/apr-28-day-of-mourning

Alberta

Calgary & District Labour Council – Zoom Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 12:00 PM MDT
 - [Zoom Link](#)
 - [CDLC Facebook](#)
-

British Columbia

Day of Mourning BC - Online Campaign

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 10:30 AM (any time zone)
- Will be posting messages from partners and a video to recognize the 140 BC workers lost in 2019.
- www.dayofmourning.bc.ca

Campbell River District Labour Council – Virtual Ceremony

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 10:45 AM PDT
- [Facebook Event](#)

New Westminster & District Labour Council – Virtual Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 7:00 PM PDT
 - [Facebook Event](#)
-

Manitoba

Manitoba Federation of Labour – Facebook Live Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 11:00 AM CDT
 - [MFL Facebook](#)
-

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Federation of Labour – Facebook Live Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 12:00 PM ADT
 - [Facebook Event](#)
-

Northwest Territories, Nunavut & Yukon

Yukon Federation of Labour – Facebook Live Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 12:30 PM PDT
 - [YFL Facebook](#)
-

Ontario

Durham Region Labour Council – Virtual Ceremony (Zoom)

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 12:00 PM EDT
 - [Zoom Link](#)
 - [Facebook Event](#)
-

Hamilton District Labour Council – Online / Home Activities

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - 9:00 AM EDT: Worker Impact Video
 - 11:00 AM EDT: Family Colouring Page
 - 8:20 PM – 8:40 PM EDT: Candle/Flashlight Lighting for the Living
- [HDLC Facebook](#)

Northumberland Labour Council – Virtual Ceremony (Zoom)

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 4:00 PM EDT
- [Zoom Link](#)
- [Facebook Event](#)

Ottawa District Labour Council – Virtual Ceremony

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 12:30 PM EDT
- [Link and details to be posted soon \(see *Safety in Schools* blog\)](#)

Peterborough District Labour Council – Facebook Live Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 10:55 AM EDT
- [Facebook Event](#)

Toronto Labour Council Online Commemoration

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 12:00 PM EDT
- [Facebook Live](#) or [YouTube](#) (details to be made available)

York Labour Council Online Commemoration

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 11:00 AM EDT
- [Facebook Live](#) or [YouTube](#) (details to be made available)

Waterloo Regional Labour Council – Live Stream

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Start Time: 10:30 AM EDT
 - [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)
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Saskatchewan

Moose Jaw & District Labour Council – Wreath Laying Video

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: Not a live event.
- Posted: ~10:30 AM CST/MDT
- [MJDLC Facebook](#)

Regina & District Labour Council – Facebook Live Event

- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Start Time: 5:30 PM CST/MDT
- [Regina Labour Facebook](#)

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour – Social Campaign

- Tuesday, April 21 – April 28
- Start Time: Not a live event.
- Highlighting ideas for how to make workplaces safer
- [SFL Facebook](#)

Other

No events found for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Quebec.

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour

- “Plans to mark the National Day of Mourning in NFLD have changed due to COVID-10”

Day of Mourning Nova Scotia

Day of Mourning NS will not be hosting gatherings this year but ask the public to:

- Share a tribute on their page
- Observe a moment of silence
- Read or watch stories from previous years
- [Day of Mourning NS on Facebook](#)

WCB Prince Edward Island

Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail

Canadian Labour Council – Story Sharing Campaign

- CLC is requesting stories from front line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic to be shared with local newspapers.