

# Day of Mourning Backgrounder



- The National Day of Mourning has been observed in Canada on April 28 since the Workers Mourning Day Act was passed in December 1990. The Day honours the memory of workers who have been killed or injured as a result of work-related incidents. Typically, the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill flies at half-mast.
- The Canadian Labour Congress first recognized the Day of Mourning in 1984. April 28 was chosen as, on that day in 1914, the Workers Compensation Act received third reading.
- The Day was first recognized by the provincial government of British Columbia in 1987.
- Canada was the first nation to recognize the Day of Mourning. Recognition of the Day has since spread to many other countries.
- On April 28, 2001 the International Labour Organization first observed World Day for Safety and Health at Work on this day.
- 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.
- In B.C. this year more than 68,000 workers and employers at over 600 worksites will wear Day of Mourning decals at ceremonies across the province.