

Day of MOURNING



*****MEDIA ALERT*****

Day of Mourning ceremony commemorates B.C. workers killed or injured on the job

Richmond, B.C. (April 23, 2019) — The annual Day of Mourning on April 28 commemorates workers who have been killed or seriously injured as a result of their job. In B.C., family survivors will be joined by workers, unions, employers, and local labour councils to mark the day with more than 35 ceremonies throughout the province.

The Canadian Labour Congress held the first National Day of Mourning ceremony in 1985, making Canada the first country to formally commemorate workers killed in the workplace. In 1991, the federal government passed the Workers Mourning Act, and the following year British Columbia proclaimed April 28 the Day of Mourning. Today, it is recognized in 100 countries around the world.

The B.C. Federation of Labour, Business Council of British Columbia, Vancouver & District Labour Council, and WorkSafeBC are hosting a public memorial ceremony in Vancouver. Speakers will include:

- Alec Dan, Musqueam Indian Band, who will give the territorial greeting
- MC Stephen Von Sychowski, President, Vancouver & District Labour Council
- Minister of Labour Harry Bains, Government of B.C.
- Brian Erickson, WorkSafeBC interim President and CEO
- W. Laird Cronk, President, B.C. Federation of Labour
- Greg D'Avignon, President and CEO, Business Council of British Columbia
- Mike Shaw, injured as a young worker (see [profile](#))
- Sadaf Abdul, family member of a fatally injured worker (see [profile](#))

At the conclusion of the ceremony there will be a moment of silence, followed by a piper leading an honour-guard procession to the *Line of Work* memorial, honouring workers throughout B.C.'s history.

In 2018, there were 131* work-related deaths in B.C., 66 resulting from occupational disease (primarily related to historical asbestos exposure), and 65 resulting from traumatic injuries.

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2019
Time: 10:30 a.m. (Olympic Cauldron to be lit at 10 a.m.)
Location: Jack Poole Plaza, Vancouver Convention Centre, 1075 Canada Place

For more information, visit www.dayofmourning.bc.ca.

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*based on WorkSafeBC accepted work-related death claims