

NEW WESTMINSTER &  
DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

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

April 9, 2019

**Via Email:**

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends,


Workers are still being killed or seriously injured on the job. It is a tragedy for the worker, for their family, and for our communities. Since 1984, when the Canadian Labour Congress initiated April 28<sup>th</sup> as the Day of Mourning, we have gathered each year to remember those killed or seriously injured in the workplace, and to re-dedicate ourselves to making workplaces safer. This year, the New Westminster & District Labour Council invites you and your members to remember with us. We will be joined by Labour Leaders and the Mayor and Council members of the City of New Westminster on Sunday April 28, 2019 at 11:00am at Westminster Pier Park on the waterfront.

Workplace death and serious injury are not random and without cause. A worker's serious injury or death should never be considered just a cost of doing business. By gathering together we bring attention to the importance of workplace health and safety to our families and our communities.

This year we are highlighting the Canadian Labour Congress campaign "***One is Too Many: No one should die on the job***" in our ceremony. Workers deserve to arrive home safely at the end of their workday, so this year we join the CLC call for all governments to enforce existing laws, including the Westray provisions in the Criminal Code and all occupational health and safety law and regulation. The definition of dangerous work in the *Canada Labour Code* must be reinstated as it was before the Harper government weakened it in 2014, and there must be a strong commitment to the prevention of workplace injury and death. We must also examine and expand the narrow lens through which workplace health and safety is viewed. A recent Canadian study suggests that workers compensation data does not capture the full extent of workplace fatalities which could be as much as 10 to 13 times higher than official data indicates.

The New Westminster Pipe Band will play as we gather before the start of our ceremony at 11:00am in Westminster Pier Park in front of the concession stand. Parking and wheelchair access is from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street parkade and the pedestrian overpass and the nearest Skytrain station is Columbia, an approximately 5 minute walk from the park. There is more parking accessed from Begbie Street adjacent to the Fraser River Discovery Centre. We look forward to having you join us to mark the Day of Mourning on Sunday April 28 at 11:00am.

In Solidarity,

  
Janet Andrews  
Secretary-Treasurer

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