



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
EDUCATION WORKERS

Local 1571

April 28, 2024 – National Worker’s Day of Mourning

Over the past 33 years the Canadian flag has flown at half-mast on April 28th on all government buildings. Employers, Unions and all workers in Canada have observed a Day of Mourning in a variety of ways.

Over the past several years, on April 28th our Local 1571 have observed this Day of Mourning in a variety of ways as well: we have participated in livestream of the Day of Mourning Ceremony event, paused for a moment of silence and have lit candles in honor of those workers affected.

Across our country, according to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety, there are nearly 1,000 workplace deaths per year. Every day in Canada an average of 3 workers will die from a workplace injury or an occupational disease.

Canada has designated April 28th the National Day of Mourning. People from across all sectors of our communities - workers, families, Unions and employers - will gather to remember those who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or occupational disease. It means a great deal to us that we stand together with them as compassionate supporters.

The National Day of Mourning is not only a day to remember and honor 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 injuries, illnesses and deaths.

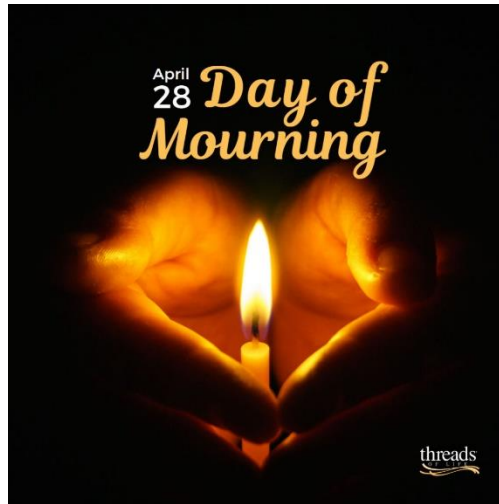
We as individuals show our support and commitment to a safe workplace by reminding our members to put health and safety at the forefront of their work to prevent work-related injuries.

It is our hope that the annual observance of this day will help strengthen the resolve to establish safe and healthy conditions in the workplace, prevent all injuries, illnesses, and deaths. As much as this is a day to remember those who have been injured or lost their lives, it is also a call to protect the living and make work a place where people are safe and can thrive.

Let us join together in a moment of silence to honor the lives impacted and reflect on how we can ensure everyone arrives home healthy and safe.



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In past years, Local 1571 prepared a short prayer service for this event. We have paused for a moment of silence, lit the candle and prayed for those who have died or suffered injury or illness due to work-related tragedies. We have shared this event virtually with our employer and our members. By sharing this prayerful message, we recognized the lives of those who died and suffered injury.

Visit Local 1571 Youtube page for the Reflection service:

https://youtu.be/NEJ0zAHnB4c?si=-VFy26hr_Gh2o5A

Global Partners Resource:

<https://goldblattpartners.com/experience/publications/post/thoughts-on-the-national-day-of-mourning/>

Reflection:

Today we mourn and we unite with those who experience trauma, loss and collective resilience in our communities across Canada and even around the world to remember those men and women – and often young men and women – that lost their lives because of an unthinkable workplace tragedy. We offer our thoughts and prayers to the families who live with the constant pain and grieve day after day. We think of those workers who were injured on the job and those who struggle with ongoing illnesses as a result of dangerous work environments. We've all heard the statistics. But lives cannot be reduced to statistics. Workplace disasters change lives forever. For these reasons, the Day of Mourning is also an important call to action. Whether we are employers or employees we all deserve to be safe. We need to pray for vigilance and safety in performing our jobs each and every day. Our employer and the Union have built health and safety best practices, continuous improvement and accountability into our workplace. We must feel confident at work and if something is wrong and if we want to be heard, we need to speak up. Let this day serve as another courageous reminder that we must never stop working toward our shared goal of eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses.