

April 2015

Re: April 28th, the National day of Mourning

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

April 28th is the National Day of Mourning, observed across Canada and many other countries.

It is the day we remember and honour those who have lost their lives, and those who have been injured and made ill as a result of occupational hazards and diseases. At the same time, we renew our commitment to improving health & safety in the workplace and refocus our energies to prevent further deaths, injuries and diseases at work.

Sadly, the numbers remain staggering. In 2013, 902 workplace deaths were recorded in Canada. This means more than 2.5 deaths every single day.

In the 20-year period from 1993 to 2013, 18,941 people were killed because of unsafe workplaces and work practices (an average of 947 deaths per year). Every death is an absolute failure, like that of our brother, Paul Rochette, who was killed one year ago at the Copper Cliff nickel Smelter in Sudbury, ON. Fines are not enough.

The statistics are incomplete and are just those that are acknowledged and accepted by workers' compensation boards. They do not include the many workers who are not covered by workers compensation, or those whose claims have been denied, or the incidents that have not even been reported.

Whatever the numbers show, every statistic is unacceptable -- because we know that most deaths and injuries are predictable and preventable.

Compared with many other countries, Canada remains a dangerous place for working people. That is why:

- Our union will never stop demanding improvements to health and safety regulations and laws, to prevent and reduce injuries and fatalities.
- We must ensure that workers receive quality training and have meaningful worker participation in joint health and safety committees.

- We require better enforcement of the existing laws, including the Criminal Code amendments known as the Westray Law.
- We must continue to fight for the most vulnerable and ensure that injured workers receive fair compensation, dignity and respect.

BE A PART OF THE STRUGGLE

Do your part on April 28, 2015. Participate in Day of Mourning events in your community. Visit our website at: www.stopthekilling.ca.

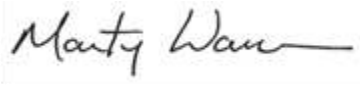
See all the progress we've made to date and view the many endorsements from municipalities across the country. Is your city on the map? If not, contact us and help get your municipality's endorsement on the map.

Support the call for a Public Inquiry into the two BC sawmill explosions that killed 4 workers and seriously injured 44 more. This was a preventable tragedy. The public deserves the full facts. Workers and their families deserve answers, not a cover-up. Sign the petition at: www.usw.ca/inquiry.

Every worker has the right to a healthy workplace and the right to return home at the end of the day, **safe**.

I encourage each and every one of you to support and observe this significant day.

In Solidarity,



Marty Warren
District 6 Director

MW/sb/ss

cc: Tony DePaulo, Assistant to the District 6 Director
Sylvia Boyce, District 6 Health and Safety Coordinator
Staff and Area Coordinators
Support Staff

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