

From The Hall

I.B.E.W. Local 2067

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From IBEW International Office

National Day of Mourning

April 28, 2018

Greetings:

Every year on April 28 we pay our respects to, and remember, the thousands of workers who have been killed, injured or suffered illness as a result of work-related incidents. We also honour the many families and friends who have been deeply affected by these tragedies. Every worker has the right to return home safe and sound at the end of each work day. By working together – with employers, workers and our health and safety partners – we can prevent worker injuries and deaths before they occur.

The National Day of Mourning, held annually on April 28th, was officially recognized by the federal government in 1991, eight years after the day of remembrance was launched by our Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The Day of Mourning has since spread to more than 80 countries around the world and has been adopted by the AFL-CIO and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

With respect to the upcoming National Day of Mourning on April 28th, while the enduring theme for April 28 is "*Mourn for the dead - Fight for the Living*", as you know for the last several years the Canadian Labour of Congress (CLC) has provided a focus for the "fight for the living" aspect of Day of Mourning, with a focus on asbestos in 2016 and a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Westray tragedy in 2017.

Drawing inspiration from the ongoing work of many affiliates, labour councils and federations of labour, we want to bring focus and attention to the issue of violence and harassment as part of this year's National Day of Mourning activities. In recognition that violence and harassment are work place hazards that must not be treated as an inevitable component of work, and inspired by all the work that has been done to date on this issue, we will unite under the banner of Violence and Harassment: it's not part of the job.

We know that violence and harassment are not experienced in the same way by all workers. Other forms of discriminatory harassment intersect with gender-based and sexual harassment, making some workers more vulnerable. And we know that a worker in any sector faces an increased risk if they are experiencing domestic violence.

So on Saturday, April 28th, 2018, mark the 'Day' by flying flags at half-mast; wear ribbons or black armbands, or whatever your traditional vigils/ceremonies are and observe moments of silence together with your family, friends and co-workers. Also a reminder to send in photos or videos of any events your Local Union is participating in so we can share them on our website; this will increase the awareness of the importance of commemorating the National Day of Mourning and insist that all levels of government do more to enforce existing healthy and safety laws and vigorously prosecute violations when a worker is killed or seriously injured.

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