



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
JOUR NATIONAL DE DEUIL

Is today the day you die at work?

Over the past twenty-five years, successive governments have pledged their support to workers and their unions. They announced new workplace health and safety laws and regulations - some of the best in the world. Unfortunately, they have failed to provide the resources needed to enforce those new laws.

Over the last twenty-five years, the number of Canadians who die every year because of something that happened to them at work has been steadily growing. We know that hundreds more deaths occur due to exposures to carcinogens and toxins in the workplace, but they are never identified or accepted as work-related by Workers' Compensation Boards.

The slogan for the CLC National Day of Mourning, "Is today the day you die at work?" asks, why is it that so many Canadians unjustly lose their life?

Sadly, for 2008, the most recent year for which we have statistics, 1,036 Canadians lost their lives because of their work.

This is the reason why Canada's workplaces claim a growing number of lives every year; the laws are not enforced, so reckless employers are allowed to carry on without consequence.

It's time for the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments to appoint special prosecutors to lay charges under the Criminal Code against employers when their actions cause death or serious injury. More inspectors must be hired to ensure employers comply with the law. Government regulators must be held accountable for this carnage that seems to go unchecked.

As we take time on April 28th, to remember those who have lost their lives, been injured or became ill, due to their work, I ask you to do more than reflect on the importance of health and safety; I ask you to think of those who are closest to you, your child, your spouse, your sibling, your parent, your best friend. Consider the role they play in your life and your family's lives. Imagine if their life was taken from them. Every single one of those 1,036 lives that ended in 2008 had dreams, had a mom and had people who loved and continue to love and miss them.

In solidarity,

Ken Georgetti,
 President



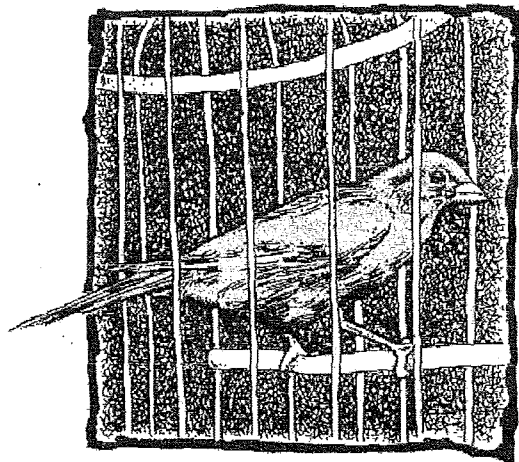
Canadian Labour Congress
 Congrès du travail du Canada

APRIL 28 – DAY OF MOURNING

In 1984, the Canadian Labour Congress began to observe April 28 as the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. Because of the perseverance of many union activists, the Parliament of Canada passed the "Workers Mourning Day Act" in 1991 which officially recognizes April 28 as a day to remember workers who gave their lives or were injured simply because they went to work.

Day of Mourning observances are held in many communities across the country, often organized by local labour councils. Ceremonies will remember the 139 workers who died on the job in 2007, seven of whom were under the age of 25. This means that, on average, one worker is killed every second working day in this province. In addition, thousands of workers are permanently disabled every year.

BCTF members have enjoyed tremendous support from the labour movement. We are fortunate that few of our colleagues die on the job although hundreds are injured every year. The 139 workers who died last year are our union sisters and brothers, our friends, our neighbours, our family members and our students. It is important that BCTF members show solidarity with other workers by attending the Day of Mourning ceremonies in their communities. We must mourn the loss of these workers and then fight for the rights of those of us who remain.



At one time canaries were the only safeguard underground miners had against dangers in their workplaces. When the canary died it was time for the workers to evacuate the mine. Our sisters and brothers in CUPE have adopted the canary as the symbol for the Day of Mourning and the canary is recognized around the world.

Fight for the living, mourn for the dead.



S.C. 1991, c. 15

L.C. 1991, ch. 15

An Act respecting a Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace

Loi concernant l'institution d'un jour de compassion pour les personnes tuées ou blessées au travail

[Assented to 1st February 1991]

[Sanctionnée le 1^{er} février 1991]

WHEREAS it is desirable that Canadians should designate a day of mourning to remember workers killed, disabled or injured in the workplace and workers afflicted with industrial disease;

Attendu:

qu'il est souhaitable que les Canadiens instituent un jour de compassion pour commémorer les travailleurs tués, atteints d'incapacité ou blessés à leur travail ou victimes de maladies professionnelles:

AND WHEREAS Canadians seek earnestly to set an example of their commitment to the issue of health and safety in the workplace;

que les Canadiens cherchent ardemment à donner un exemple de leur attachement à la cause de la santé et de la sécurité au travail,

NOW, THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, édicte :

SHORT TITLE

TITRE ABRÉGÉ

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Workers Mourning Day Act*.

1. *Loi sur le jour de compassion pour les travailleurs*.

Titre abrégé

Day of Mourning

2. (1) Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the 28th day of April shall be known under the name of "Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace".

2. (1) Dans toute l'étendue du Canada, le 28 avril de chaque année est désigné comme « Jour de compassion pour les personnes tuées ou blessées au travail ».

Jour de compassion

Not a legal holiday

(2) For greater certainty, the Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace is not a legal holiday or a non-judicial day and shall not be required to be kept or observed as such.

(2) Il est entendu que le Jour de compassion pour les personnes tuées ou blessées au travail n'est pas une fête légale ni un jour non juridique.

Statut

Office of the Mayor of the City of Hamilton, Ontario

Proclamation

ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB

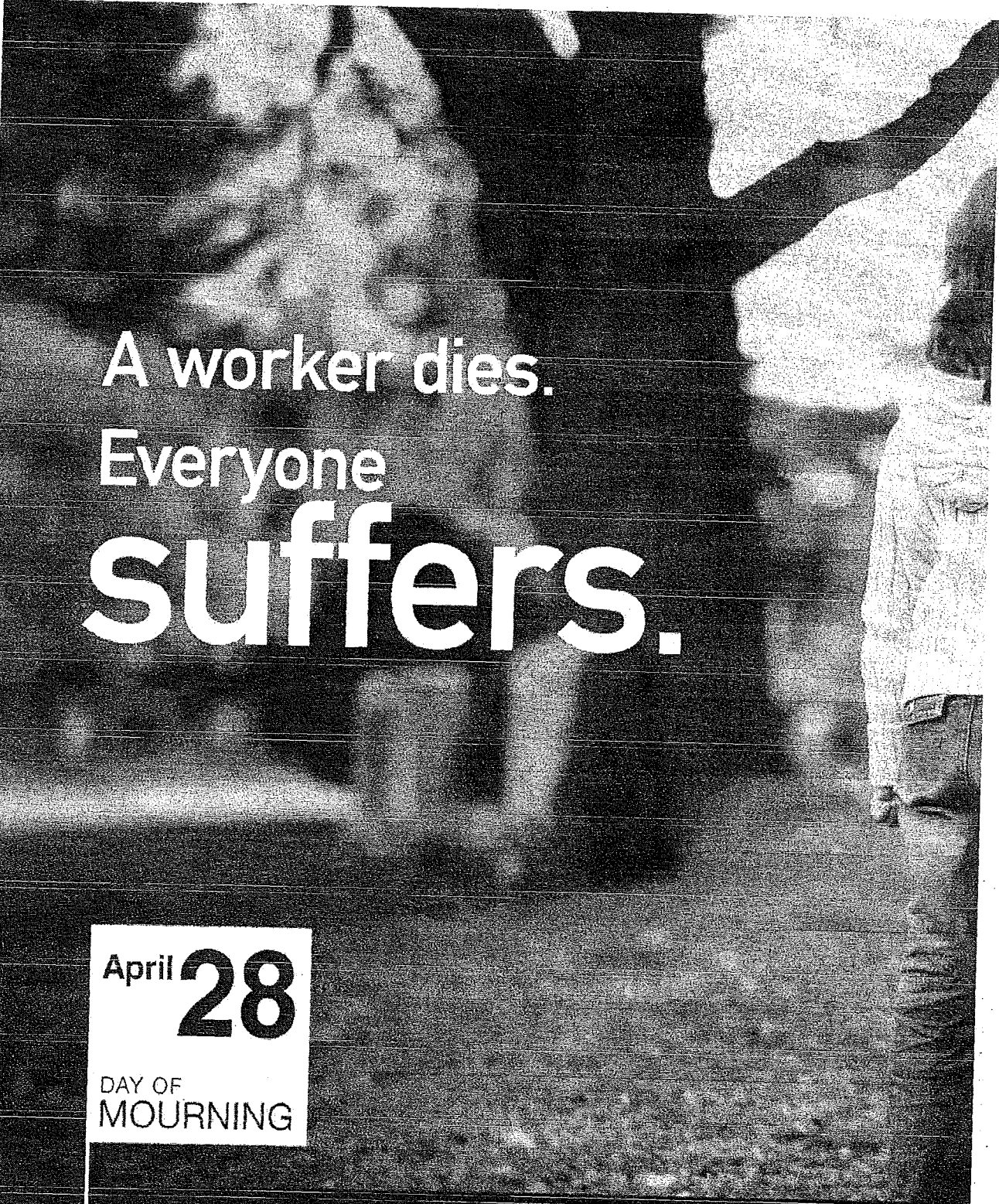
- WHEREAS** Every year more than 1,000 workers are killed on the job; and
- WHEREAS** Thousands more are permanently disabled; and
- WHEREAS** Hundreds of thousands are injured; and
- WHEREAS** Thousands of others die from cancer, lung disease, and other ailments caused by exposure to toxic substances at their workplaces; and
- WHEREAS** April 28th of each year has been chosen by the Canadian Labour Congress as:
- A day of mourning for these victims of workplace accidents and disease;
 - A day to remember the supreme sacrifice they have been forced to make in order to earn a living;
 - A day to renew approaches to governments for tougher occupational health and safety standards, and more Effective compensation;
 - A day to rededicate ourselves to the goal of making Ontario's workplaces safer.

NOW THEREFORE I, MAYOR BOB BRATINA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 28TH, 2012 as

"ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB" and encourage everyone to support the Hamilton & District Injured Workers Group in its efforts to increase awareness of injuries on the job.

In the City of Hamilton

Bob Bratina
Mayor
Dated this _____



A worker dies.
Everyone
suffers.

April **28**

DAY OF
MOURNING

April 28th is dedicated to honouring
the memory of those who have been injured or killed at work

In 2005, over 1000 workers died



Office of the Mayor of the City of Burnaby, British Columbia

Proclamation

ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB

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- A day to rededicate ourselves to the goal of making Canada's workplaces safer.

NOW THEREFORE I, DEREK R. CORRIGAN, MAYOR OF BURNABY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 28th, 2011 as

"ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB"

In the City of Burnaby,

Derek R. Corrigan
Mayor

Dated this 18th day of April, 2011 A.D.