

Day of MOURNING



Backgrounder

Canada

- The National Day of Mourning is observed in Canada on April 28. The day honours those workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness due to work-related incidents.
- The Canadian Labour Congress first recognized the Day of Mourning in 1984. In 1991, this day became a national observance with the passing of the *Workers Mourning Day Act*, and on April 28, 1991, the federal government officially proclaimed the National Day of Mourning.
- Canada was the first nation to recognize the Day of Mourning. Since 1984, acknowledgement of the day has spread to many countries and is now observed throughout the world.
- Typically, the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill is flown at half-mast, and workers and employees observe the day in various ways including wearing ribbons, lighting candles, and observing moments of silence.

British Columbia

- In 2001, WorkSafeBC, the BC Federation of Labour and the Business Council of British Columbia dedicated a permanent workers' memorial in the Sanctuary in Hastings Park, Vancouver.
- There are approximately 45 permanent worker memorial sites sponsored by WorkSafeBC in British Columbia.
- Regional ceremonies take place across the province each year. A list of local ceremonies in B.C. is regularly updated between February and April on dayofmourning.bc.ca.
- The 2026 provincial Day of Mourning ceremony, hosted by BC Federation of Labour, will take place on the steps of the Legislature in Victoria at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.