



UNIFOR
theUnion | lesyndicat

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April 25, 2019

Revised

To: Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries

Dear Unifor Members,

National Day of Mourning

On Sunday, April 28, 2019 we will observe the National Day of Mourning, to remember and honour workers who have died or have been injured on the job.

This year we pay special tribute to our fallen brother Blaine Parody, a crew member from Wild Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador, who was lost overboard on September 1, 2018 and whose body was never recovered.

The loss of Blaine serves to remind us that even one workplace death is too many.

Unfortunately, there have been far too many. According to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC), 951 workplace deaths were recorded in Canada in 2017 – 46 more than the year before. Among them, 23 were young workers. More than 250,000 others suffered work-related injuries or disease.

Our members have been participating in the National Day of Mourning for 35 years, and even lobbied for its recognition. It's an important day to remember those we have lost, but given the fact incidents continue to increase we must also take time to reflect on what we can do to prevent tragedy from striking again.

On April 28, we reaffirm our commitment to keep fighting for safer and healthier workplaces.

Our union strongly supports amendments to the Canadian Labour Code, in Bill C 65, to strengthen the current framework for the prevention of harassment and violence in the workplace – including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

We have demanded workplace protections for victims of domestic violence and continue to promote mental health awareness and support for workers affected by mental illness. We also continue to fight for the removal of asbestos from workplaces and buildings.

We encourage you to participate in Day of Mourning events in your workplace or community, to remember those who went to work one day but did not return home and those whose lives have been forever changed because of workplace injury or illness.

In solidarity,



Jerry Dias
National President



Sari Sairanen
Director, Health, Safety and Environment

JD:SS:lhcope343

cc. NEB, National Representatives, Coordinators