



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, BC V5J 5M3 • TEL: 604-438-5000 • FAX: 604-739-1510 • WEB: www.heu.org

March 23, 2017

Secretary-Treasurers

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Re: National Day of Mourning – Friday, April 28, 2017

On Friday, April 28 – the National Day of Mourning – we join with workers across Canada to reaffirm our commitment to hold employers accountable for ensuring safe and healthy workplaces.

On this day, ceremonies throughout B.C. will honour workers injured or killed on the job and those who have died from work-related incidents or occupational disease.

The National Day of Mourning was officially recognized by the federal government in 1991, eight years after the day of remembrance was launched by the Canadian Labour Congress. It's now acknowledged in about 80 countries around the world.

According to WorkSafeBC's October 2016 stats, there were 145,803 workers injured on the job; 2,970 occupational disease claims, and 122 workers who died because of a workplace incident in 2015 – a slight decrease from 2014.

HEU members know all too well that health care continues to have the highest injury rate among all labour sectors – with an alarmingly high number of injuries due to workplace violence. Our care aides, particularly in long-term care, account for the highest number of injuries on the job.

Once again, to raise awareness among HEU members and their families about the importance of the National Day of Mourning, the union's People with disAbilities Standing Committee is holding its popular children's colouring contest, as part of its Blue Poppy Campaign.

Contest details are enclosed and available to download from the HEU website at www.heu.org. The submission deadline is **Friday, May 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** – Provincial Office, 5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 5M3.

Please distribute the enclosed posters and blue poppies at your work site. If you have any questions about the colouring contest, please contact HEU equity officer Jennifer Efting at jefting@heu.org.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Whiteside
Secretary-Business Manager

cc: Provincial Executive, chairpersons, HEU reps and directors

Enclosure