



HEU recognizes International Day of Mourning – April 28

Since 1985, the labour movement and allies have gathered together from coast to coast on the International Day of Mourning – April 28 – to remember and honour workers killed and injured on the job.

According to WorkSafeBC's most recent stats, a staggering 141,559 workers were injured on the job in the past year. And 149 people died at work, including four health care workers. The health care sector is the most dangerous for workplace injuries in B.C.

That's why HEU's People with disAbilities (PWD) Standing Committee continues to advocate for safer working conditions through its Blue Poppy Campaign, and they have chosen the Blue Poppy to represent people injured or killed at work.

As part of the Blue Poppy Campaign, the PWD committee distributes blue poppy buttons to HEU locals throughout the province.

And as a way to raise awareness to HEU members and their families about the importance of the International Day of Mourning, the PWD committee is holding its annual children's colouring contest. Contest details are available at <http://www.heu.org/members/human-rights/people-disabilities>.

Now observed in about 100 countries, the International Day of Mourning is marked in Canada by flying the flag on Parliament Hill at half-mast.

And in many communities, labour organizations, unions and government agencies hold public ceremonies including speeches, lighting candles, wearing ribbons, laying flowers and wreaths, observing a moment of silence, unveiling monuments, planting trees, releasing balloons, laying out empty shoes or hard hats to symbolize those who have died at work.

Check out Day of Mourning events being held in your community at <http://bcfed.ca/events/day-of-mourning-2013-ceremonies/>.

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