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April 28th National Day of Mourning

A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental right for every worker.

Businesses in North America used to factor loss of workers due to death, dismemberment, disease, or other causes into their budget as acceptable losses. "Workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths are just a cost of doing business." In parts of the world today, that is still the case.

While there have been improvements in policy and practice, tragedy still occurs. In 2023, the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC) reported 1,057 workplace fatalities in Canada and 274,022 accepted claims for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease. These numbers include only what is reported and accepted by the compensation boards – the total number of workers impacted is known to be even greater.

The members of the Quality Control Council of Canada have experienced first-hand the suffering and pain that comes from losing a friend, a family member, or a partner through a workplace incident. Every one of us knows someone whose family has had to bear the burden of loss that results from that worker coming home sick, broken, or never coming home again.

That is why, at 11 AM on April 28, we take a moment to think about our fallen brothers and sisters, and all workers around the world, and to recommit ourselves to improving the safety practices on jobsites with the goal of reducing the illness, injury, and casualty count to zero.

Reflecting isn't enough to make this goal a reality, however. Action is critical. When our members negotiate with our contractors and owners, safety is always central to their discussions. On the jobsite, our members do their best to ensure that all workers have the opportunity to go home to their families at the end of their shift.

This year, April 28 is also Election Day, which provides an opportunity for every single Canadian to have a say about who they believe should lead our country into the future. This is another opportunity for action. A chance to think about and honour the legacy of the workers and families who have suffered and to choose a leader who considers the safety of workers to be a core element of the progress of a nation, rather than having their deaths be a regrettable but acceptable cost of doing business.

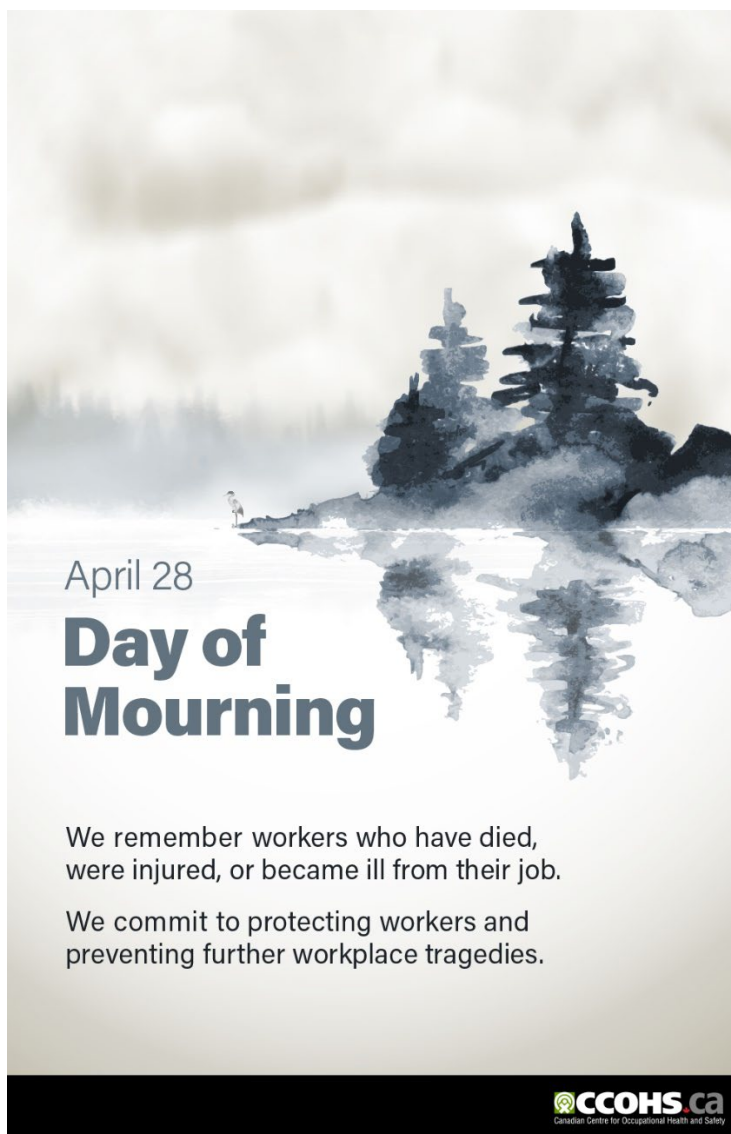
This year, think about what workers across the country and around the world have made possible for you, reflect on what they have given up to help the rest of us prosper, and vote to



ensure that the workers of tomorrow can work safely and join us in the future they are working so hard to build.

In Solidarity,

Quality Control Council of Canada



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