



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

April 28: Mourning and working for change

The observance this year of the International Day of Mourning on April 28 marks the 25th anniversary of this solemn day, marked annually to commemorate workers who have been killed, injured or made ill because of their work.

Established first in Canada by the Canadian Labour Congress in 1984, the April 28 date was chosen to commemorate the passage of Ontario's Workers' Compensation Act in 1914 – the first such legislation in the country.

In December 1990, the Canadian Parliament passed the Workers Mourning Day Act and observance of the Day of



Mourning became a national event. Across the country flags are flown at half-mast and a moment of silence is observed at 11 a.m. as part of the many ceremonies and observances that are conducted.

In 1996, April 28 was adopted as the International Day of Mourning and now workers from more than 100 countries join Canadians in marking the day. The annual observance of the Day of Mourning serves to strengthen everyone's resolve not only to establish safe conditions in the workplace for all but to demand an end to the suffering caused by hazardous working conditions.

Ceremonies will be held at noon in the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit

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Upcoming Events

April and May

There will be two one day courses held by the Northern Territories Federation of Labour on Understanding Workers Compensation, and Return to Work. These courses are free of charge and would be of interest to any member who wants more knowledge of these issues.

Please see the posters at the back of this newsletter regarding the Return to Work course, or visit www.ntfl.com for more

information.

May 3 - 9

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week – it was first launched in June 1997, marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico. A series of events will be held in Yellowknife sponsored by the Northern Territories Federation of Labour and the Workers Safety Compensation Commission.

For more information on North American Occupational Safety and Health week visit:
National site link: <http://www.naosh.org/english/LocalActivity>
Information: <http://www.wcb.nt.ca/>
And www.ntfl.yk.com

WSCC NAOSH Week Events

- ◆ Arctic Overhaul Program
- ◆ Kick Start Your Safety Machine
- ◆ Ready ,Set, Go SAFE: Team Challenge
 - May 8, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
 - Barbeque Lunch sponsored by the Northern Territories Federation of Labour
- ◆ Official Release of the WSCC 's Return-to-Work Toolkit
 - May 6, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm



Get your WSCC - Go SAFE Toolkit at:

<http://www.wcb.nt.ca/go-safe/>

[Details on these events and more can be found at:](#)



PSAC Health and Safety e-network

The PSAC National Health and Safety Program is establishing a National List Serve of all Health and Safety activists. With the establishment of this List Serve, PSAC's National Health and Safety Program will be able to provide all PSAC Health and Safety activists with information on emerging trends in occupational health and safety, the latest updates on Regulatory changes, and other information of interest to the Health and Safety community. The PSAC National Health and Safety Program will also be producing a quarterly e-newsletter that would be sent to all Health and Safety activists that register for the list serve. The PSAC Health and Safety Activist List Serve is open to any PSAC member serving on a Policy or Workplace Health and Safety Committee, is a Health and Safety Representative in their workplace, or has a strong interest in occupational health and safety issues. Please be assured that all personal email addresses will be kept strictly confidential and only used for the purpose of the PSAC Health and Safety e-network.

For further information please contact Steve Petersen at peterss@psac.com

Do you have a Workplace Health and Safety Committee?

In the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut there are three pieces of legislation that address the requirements to have Health and Safety Committees in place:

There is the **General Health and Safety Act** that covers workers working in industries other than mining which is governed by the **Mining Safety Act**.

Workers who are in the Federal sector fall under the **Canada Labour Code** requirements.

For more information on Health and Safety Legislation please visit:

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/ochesa.pdf>

http://www.wcb.nt.ca/your_wcb/Legislation/NWT_Safety_Act.pdf

http://www.wcb.nt.ca/your_wcb/pdf/legislation/NWTMineHealthSafety.pdf

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/lp/lo/ohs/>

The Workplace Committee structure is a vital component to ensure that our members are provided with the necessary knowledge to undertake their duties in a safe environment.

Efforts are being made by the Compensation regimes to encourage companies to operate safer by introducing a merit demerit system.

The employer has to have established criteria of functioning committees, return to work programs and other policies in place to be eligible for any rebates.

In unionized workplaces the union needs to be actively involved in these Committees, if not we defer the Health and Safety concerns to the employer!

We are currently canvassing our Locals to ascertain the number of legislatively functioning Workplace Health and Safety Committees there are currently in operation:

Please Tell Us About Your Workplace Health & Safety Committee!

We would like to know more about your workplace Health & Safety Committee. Please answer the questions below, and feel free to make additional comments in the space provided.

Do you have a workplace Health & Safety committee?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, do you know your worker representatives on the committee?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Are there Health & Safety concerns at your workplace? If yes please comment in the space provided.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Would you be willing to participate in a workplace Health & Safety committee?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Comments:

Name/Local

Address

Phone/E-mail Address

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
STEVE PETERSEN
HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE
PSAC YELLOWKNIFE REGIONAL OFFICE

Public Service Alliance of Canada
PO Box 637, 4916-49th Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N5

Phone: 867-873-5670
Fax: 867-873-4295



To Learn More About Health & Safety:

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) promotes a safe and healthy working environment by providing occupational health and safety information and advice:

- www.ccohs.ca

These sites have a wealth of information for workers:

- www.wcb.yk.ca
- www.wcb.nt.ca

The Yukon Workers Advocate Office:

- www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/ms/wad/index.html

Worker Advisor for the NT:

- www.waonorth.ca

This group provides training in the Yukon in conjunction with the YFL and WCB:

- www.yukonsafety.com

Find us online at
www.psacnorth.com

If you would like more information about serving on your regional Health & Safety committee please return this form to:

Steve Petersen, Health & Safety Representative
PSAC Yellowknife Regional Office
PO Box 637
4916-49th Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N5

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

