

National Day of Mourning – April 28

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Paul Elliott, President

For Action

In 1985, the Canadian Labour Congress declared April 28th to be an annual day of remembrance for workers who have been killed, injured or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards and incidents. In 1991, the Canadian government recognized the day as a National Day of Mourning and observance of this day has now spread over 80 countries.

This year the Canadian Labour Congress is calling for a comprehensive national ban on asbestos, banning the use, exportation and import of asbestos.

Asbestos is the number one cause of occupational death in Canada and exposure to asbestos has been the cause of the untimely deaths of OSSTF/FEESO members due to mesothelioma and/or asbestosis. We ask that wherever possible, members attend local community events that commemorate the loss of lives and reduced quality of life for workers exposed to asbestos.

In addition, OSSTF/FEESO asks that Districts and Bargaining Units request that their employers lower the Canadian flags at workplaces in recognition of the Day of Mourning. Recently Bill 180 (Workers Day of Mourning Act) received second reading in the legislature that will require that flags be lowered at half-mast in all public buildings for the Day of Mourning. (Percy Hatfield NDP - Bill 180) and as it received all party consent, it is likely to become law in the very near future.

Fight for the Living - Mourn for the Dead

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