

# Day of Mourning BC Schools Project



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## **Don't Become a Statistic: Continuing Program at BC Secondary Schools Will Honour Killed and Injured Workers While Aiming to Help Prevent Deaths and Injuries in New and Young Workers**

VANCOUVER – In British Columbia on this year's National Day of Mourning (April 28<sup>th</sup>) students in over 100 secondary schools will be honouring those killed and injured at the workplace, while learning about how they can prevent themselves from becoming another statistic.

The numbers are shocking. According to WorkSafeBC,

- half of all workplace injuries occur to young workers under the age of 25
- young workers are statistically more likely than any other group to be injured on the job
- from 2010-14 there was 32,000 young workers injured and 29 work-related deaths in BC alone

"The students respond strongly to these issues, last year after we read the announcements, the whole class was silent. Students initiated a lengthy discussion and even approached me afterwards with questions" emphasizes John Decaire, a teacher at Burnaby's Cariboo Hill Secondary School who helped create the curriculum materials out of activities he himself had implemented last year. "This sort of curriculum can be life changing and is important for the rest of their lives".

The Day of Mourning BC Schools Project was initiated and coordinated by the BC Labour Heritage Centre in joint partnership with WorkSafeBC, the BC Federation of Labour, and the BC Teachers Federation. This project has been met with broad sector support and has been endorsed by CUPE BC, BC Schools Trustees' Association, and the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association.

All physical and digital materials have been made available free of cost, as the project enters its second year -- looking towards the future. Project Manager, Al Cornes, explains, "Our ultimate goal is to reach every student in BC. It's an important chance to reflect on those we've lost, and emphasize the fact that everyone has rights within the workplace."

For more information and to access digital resources for this year, please visit:  
<http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/projects/domschoolsproject>

*Additional:* Day of Mourning Activities can be visited and filmed this year at Cariboo Hill Secondary School (8580 16th Ave, Burnaby, BC V3N 1S6). Contact John Decaire for more information.