

# National Day of Mourning

April 28th



*Mourn for the dead,  
fight for the living!*



**Our City. Our Union. Our Safety.**

**CUPE National** played a pivotal role in establishing the **Day of Mourning** in Canada, which is observed on April 28th every year.

The crucial initiative in the quest is to honor the workers who have died or suffered injuries on the job and to advocate for better workplace health and safety.



In 1983, the director of **CUPE National's** Health and Safety, Colin Lambert, proposed the idea of a day to remember workers who were killed or injured on the job, which **CUPE National Convention** in 1984 officially supported. The Canadian government finally recognized and officially declared April 28th as a **National Day of Mourning** in 1990. Since then, the day of observance has spread to over 80 other countries as **Worker's Memorial Day**.

The purpose of this day is to remember and honour those workers who have lost their lives or suffered workplace injuries, commemorate the impact on their families and communities, renew commitment to advocacy and education for workplace health and safety, and to prevent future tragedies and improve workplace safety.

The day's signature symbol is a yellow canary and quite often locals will wear black armbands to honour those workers who have been affected.

**Zina Krawiec, JHSC Member, 5167 Health & Safety Committee Member**

**For more information: <https://cupe.ca/event/workers-day-mourning>**