

National Day of Mourning - History

Making workplaces safer is, or should be, a daily effort. April 28 offers workers and employers an opportunity to remember the dead, injured and ill as well as publicly renew their commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace.

Our Contractors and the IBEW are dedicated to improving health and safety and injury prevention, but the challenge remains.

The National Day of Mourning, held annually on April 28, was passed into federal law in 1990, eight years after the day of remembrance was launched by the Canadian Labour Congress. The Day of Mourning has since spread to 80 countries around the world and is supported by unions, central labour bodies, governments and employers.

The Canadian flag on Parliament Hill will fly at half-mast. Workers will light candles, don ribbons, stickers, black armbands and observe moments of silence. Contractors are asked to participate by declaring April 28th a Day of Mourning.

This annual observance will strengthen our resolve to establish and promote safe working conditions in every workplace.

IBEW LU 353
Union of Hearts & Minds

*Fight
for the
Living!*

MOURN FOR THE DEAD

The tiny canary was once the only safeguard miners had against dangerous gas buildup. If the canary died, it was a signal to evacuate the mines...fast.

Today, workers exposed to dangerous substances or work processes have no canaries to give them advance warning of danger.



APRIL 28

April 28th is the **National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job**. It is a special day set aside to mourn the loss of fellow workers.

Please take a moment on **April 28th @ 11 am** to honour our brothers and sisters, and to help us strengthen our resolve to improve occupational health and safety everywhere.

Remember. We are all canaries in today's workplace.

- Every year over 1,000 LU 353 members are injured with many more injuries not reported to WSIB.
- There are around a million reported workplace injuries a year in Canada. A compensable injury occurs every seven seconds each working day.
- Deaths from workplace injury average nearly a thousand a year. In Canada, one worker is killed every two hours of each working day.
- Deaths from workplace diseases often times go unrecorded and uncompensated; and likely exceed deaths from workplace injuries.

In Memory of Brother Stephen Cuthbertson Jr.

On October 3, 2007 we lost an apprentice, brother Stephen Cuthbertson Jr. to an electrical fatality. This year LU 353 and our membership have dedicated April 28th to remember our fallen and injured brothers.

We each have a story of close encounters and brushes with death and serious injury. There isn't a electrical worker who hasn't the scars or injuries to show for a life dedicated to the trade.

On April 28th @ 11 am, let's demonstrate IBEW union solidarity. **Let' Fight for the Living and Mourn for our Dead.** Let's commemorate our brothers killed, disabled or injured on the job over the last number of years. Remember –

***An Injury to One
Is an Injury to All***

Please contact your LU 353 Business Representative if you need assistance with your Day of Mourning event.

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Every working day, three Canadians die for their job.



Message From Joe Fashion

As your Business Manager, I'm proud that our membership came together in the spirit of **IBEW union solidarity** on January 10th and unanimously supported the motion to fund a LU 353 National Day of Mourning awareness campaign.

Our 2008 campaign is co-chaired by brothers Jeff Irons (Chair, Health & Safety Committee) and Gary Majesky (WSIB Consultant) who are coordinating this important initiative.

Over the past 3 years I have reported to the membership the alarming number of serious and life threatening electrical contact injuries our members have experienced. This is in addition to the steady stream of injuries and occupational diseases our members report on a daily basis.

LU 353 has not been complacent in the face of this constant challenge and has vigorously fought back. Our Health & Safety and Ill & Injured Committees have sponsored many important initiatives such as:

- Health & Safety certification training
- Occupational Health Clinic (2005)
- Hearing Loss Clinic (2007) and Foot Clinic (2008)
- Electrician Ergonomic Research Study (2007) - Mailed to over 8,000 members & Retirees
- Discomfort/Muskuloskeletal Survey (2006) - OHCOW
- Representing members at WSIB
- LU 353 members are leaders on job site Health & Safety Committees

*United we stand.
Divided we fall.*

Mark Osborne

In August 2005 my life changed forever. While working at the CNE I was critically burned. I have undergone numerous operations, cannot work at the trade I love, and have been robbed of my life. This should never have happened...I have paid a price too great for words. Thank-you to Gary Majesky for his assistance, the IBEW and the many brothers who are my friends.

Jim Steele

On that fateful day in August 2005, I and Mark Osborne, were critically injured at the CNE. It has been a struggle ever since. Burns are the worst type of injury because of the risk of infection and the pain. I was initially in a medically induced coma, and lucky to be alive. Thankfully I had good doctors and a great wife (Mary) and supportive family. I am also thankful to belong to a great local union which was there in my moment of need.

Nick & Luigi Marchesi

Working together, father and son, was a dream come true. Unexpectedly, in 2006 we were working on a 600 volt, 3000 amp main switchgear when it blew up and we were critically burned. We both suffered physical and emotional injuries and have struggled every day since. While we suspect the switchgear was previously repaired by non-union electricians, we paid a terrible price. During a medical crisis, you need your family and union.

Marian Leonczuk

*While working at St. Mike's Hospital I fell injuring my back. After my accident I returned to work with ongoing back problems which the WSIB disputed. Thank god Local 353 was there because they fought, appealed and won to ensure I received my benefits. Talking to other tradesmen, I discovered LU 353 is the only construction union that makes **pension contributions** and pays a members **health & welfare benefits** beyond the one year required under law.*

Pat Lanzilotta

After 40 years in the trade, I prided myself on my skill, dedication and work ethic. Those qualities served me well for most of my career... But it didn't prevent the tragedy that unfolded in 2006. I always thought I would retire from the trade on my own terms. I didn't expect to leave the trade an injured worker. Many thanks to my wife, family and LU 353 who were there for me.

April 28th

**National Day of Mourning
for Workers Killed and
Injured on the Job.**



Voices of Electricians Injured At Work