DAY OF MOURNING
APRIL 28th at 11am
CAMPAIGN 2011

Joey Vandenbos
Co-Chair
Stacey Electric

Jan de Jong
Co-Chair
Guild Electric

Steven Martin
Business Manager

Robert White
President

Jeff Irons
Vice-President

A worker dies.
Everyone SUFFERS.

In 2010, over 1000 workers died from workplace injury and disease.

April 28th is dedicated to honouring the memory of those who have been injured or killed at work.

At 11 am, please stop working and observe one minute of silence.

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Message From Your Day of Mourning Campaign Team

On behalf of President Robert White and myself, we are proud of our members who have in previous years come together in the spirit of IBEW union solidarity and supported the National Day of Mourning.

This year, I’m pleased to introduce two union activists, Brothers Jan de Jong (Guild Electric) and Joey Vandenbos (Stacey Electric), who have both graciously accepted the responsibility to serve as our 2011 Day of Mourning Campaign Co-Chairs. Their selection is very appropriate after the tragic loss of Brother Kevin “Beaver” MacDonald who was crushed to death by a TTC bus while at work on December 23rd, 2010. Both Jan and Joey work for contractors with a large footprint in the traffic and utility side of the business and know the risks that we each face every working day, which is why they are perfect ambassadors to bring home this year’s campaign message regarding the Right to Refuse.

As your Business Manager, I want the members to know that when I was working on the tools, section 43 of the Occupational Health & Safety Act was a law I strongly believed in. It’s a message that never gets old and we must take time this year to re-familiarize ourselves with our legal rights, so we don’t take short cuts and risk our own lives just to get a job done on time. Getting the job completed on time, also means doing it safely.

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!

The National Day of Mourning, held annually on April 28th was chosen when the Canadian Labour Congress proclaimed the Day to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the day the first Ontario Worker’s Compensation Act was approved by government. The Day of Mourning was enshrined in national legislation by an Act of Parliament on February 1, 1991.

Mark the Day

April 28th is an important day for workers all across Canada, because it represents an opportunity to pause and remember those workers who were killed and injured on the job. It offers workers, unions and employers an opportunity to mark the day with vigils, services, or candle-lighting ceremonies; unveiling monuments, flying flags at half-mast, or wearing ribbons, armbands or stickers. A moment of silence is often observed at 11:00 am.

I have instructed all Business Representatives to visits job sites and shops to distribute campaign materials and offer assistance. Please take a moment on April 28th at 11 am to honour our brothers and sisters who have been killed, injured or suffering from long term latency occupational disease, and to help us strengthen our resolve to improve occupational health and safety everywhere.

Your assistance in sending us photo’s of your Day of Mourning efforts is also appreciated, and we’ll consider publishing these in our May 2011 Newsletter.
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