

## SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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April 28, 2015

The National Day of Mourning is observed in Canada on April 28th. It commemorates workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards and incidents.

The date April 28th was chosen because on that day in 1914, the Workers Compensation Act received its third reading before becoming law. Tragically, workplace injuries and fatalities are still a reality in just about every kind of workplace - private and public sector alike.

In BC last year, 173 workers lost their lives while they were on the job. Three of them worked in the education sector. One person died from complications falling down stairs, another was involved in a fatal car accident while driving from one assignment to another, and the third died of a rare form of cancer as a result of exposure to asbestos.

In the education sector, the Workers' Compensation Board reports that 476 time-lost claims were due to slips, trips, and falls; while 447 claims were due to musculoskeletal injuries. A further 134 claims were filed due to injuries suffered from violence.

Every year, the BC Federation of Labour, local labour councils, and others organize [Day of Mourning](#) ceremonies across BC to remember and honour loved ones lost in workplace tragedies, and to renew the commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace – to prevent further deaths, injuries, and diseases from work.

Workers across Canada observe this day in various ways, including observing moments of silence.

On behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education, I ask that you join us in observing a moment of silence, not only for the National Day of Mourning, but also for the thousands of lives lost due to the devastating earthquake that recently hit the people of Nepal.

Harman Pandher  
Vice-Chair/Trustee  
Burnaby Board of Education