



## STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1-1937

# APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MOURNING

This is an important day for workers and their families.

Today, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, members of the United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 join with millions of workers throughout the world in observing a day of mourning to remember workers who have lost their lives or have been seriously injured on the job.

While recognizing the importance of the Day of Mourning, the Steelworkers believe that the fight to protect the health and safety of workers is one that requires constant vigilance and action every day of the year.

In our Local Union, our thoughts remain with everyone who has lost someone to a workplace incident, on this day and every day. Their loss will never be forgotten.

We honour and recognize all Workers today; that have either lost their lives on the job or later from complications or occupational disease as well as the many workers who continue to suffer from illness or injuries.

**On March 1<sup>st</sup> this year the Bohn family lost Brother Chris Bohn in a falling accident near Gold River. For this family and for Chris's relatives, friends, and co-workers this April 28 is even more profoundly felt.**

**Just last week, Brother Per Haynes was seriously injured while preparing to load on a self-loading logging truck on TFL 46. It may have been a fatal incident had it not been for a co-worker being on the scene. Brother Haynes was evacuated by air to Victoria and faces a difficult recovery. Our thoughts are with him and his family as well. We wish him a speedy recovery.**

Our thoughts remain with them as we keep moving forward and work towards measures to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.



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Over this past year, with homes and workplaces continuing to face the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to hold in-person gatherings to remember those workers who have tragically died due to a workplace accidents or illnesses. But there are options.

**There are virtual meetings on April 28<sup>th</sup>, organized by the BC Federation of Labour, at the following link:**

We stress the need for your personal vigilance at home and in your workplace to protect yourself, your co-workers, your family, your friends, and your community during the pandemic and urge our members and the public to get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, please follow the guidelines of the Provincial Health Officer and when you go out, please follow the protocols for mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing.

Remember, all workers have the right to refuse unsafe work without fear of repercussions, this clearly applies to workers who continue to work during this pandemic.

Speak up and take action if you suspect your workplace does not have proper COVID-19 protocols in place, that enable you and your co-workers to work safely. That includes contacting your Local Union representative and your joint health and safety committee, to ask questions or assist you with workplace safety concerns.

To have safe workplaces it takes all of us.

It takes good laws;

It takes training;

It takes active safety committees;

It takes a committed safety program;

It takes bargaining ever-improving safety language into our collective agreement, but by no means is that the end to improving safety for workers.



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Safety really requires commitment and perseverance.  
Safety requires working together.

Jointly our Union works with governments, employers, the Workers Compensation Board, and safety agencies to continuously improve safety. We remain committed to the goal of ending all workplace fatalities.

We hope one day we can say on April 28<sup>th</sup> that there have been no fatalities, no serious injuries, and no deaths due to occupational disease. I hope we can say that next year.

In closing, USW Local 1-1937 would like to remind everyone:

**Workers Lives Are Important. They are worth fighting for.**

**While we Mourn for the Dead.**

**We must continue to Fight for the Living.**

BB/jw  
usw1-1937

(NR100\Local 1-1937\2021 April 28<sup>th</sup> Day of Mourning Message)