

## **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Day of Mourning**

Farmer Construction would like to bring all workers together honoring and remembering co-workers and family members who were injured, made sick or killed because of something that happened at work.

Because of COVID-19, our coming together this year will once again look different but will be no less important. With many jurisdictions concerned with an emerging third wave, the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to have tremendous impact on workers, including continued lack of protection. It is critical that we all remember those workers and reiterate our commitment to fight for the living to prevent further tragedies.

### **Beyond the Statistics**

Workplace injuries and illnesses claimed the lives of 151 B.C. workers last year (2020), with more than half (88) of the work-related deaths the result of occupational disease — 51 were the result of exposure to asbestos, with many exposures happening decades earlier.

Every injury, disease, or death serves as a powerful reminder that employers have an important responsibility to ensure that all workplaces in B.C. are healthy and safe.



Add to these fatalities in 2020, 264,438 accepted claims (an increase from 251,508 the previous year) for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease, including 33,058 from workers aged 15-24, and the fact that these statistics only include what is reported and accepted by the compensation boards, there is no doubt that the total number of workers impacted is even greater.

It's not just these numbers on which we need to reflect. With each worker tragedy there are loved ones, family members, friends and co-workers who are directly affected, left behind, and deeply impacted – their lives also forever changed.

### **History**

In 1991, eight years after the day of remembrance was launched by the Canadian Labour Congress, the Parliament of Canada passed the Workers Mourning Day Act making April 28 an official Day of Mourning.

Today the Day of Mourning has since spread to more than 100 countries around the world and is recognized as Workers' Memorial Day, and as International Workers' Memorial Day by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

On April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 10:30am, I will be pausing for a moment of silence to honor workers who have died, became injured or became ill while working on their job. I encourage everyone on Farmer Construction Projects to do the same.