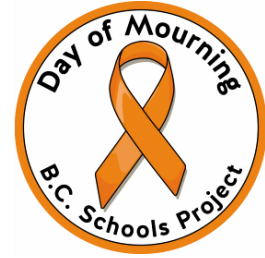


Day of Mourning BC Schools Project



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

April 28, 2024 falls on a Sunday; schools will be honouring the National Day of Mourning on Friday, April 26, 2024.

The Day of Mourning (DOM) for workers killed or injured on the job, began in Canada and is now observed around the world.

[WATCH ON YouTube](#): *“Day of Mourning the Untold Story”*, produced by the BC Federation of Labour Health and Safety Centre (2017) 11:39. Library PARC

WHY A SPECIAL DAY OF MOURNING PROJECT FOR SCHOOLS?

Many students and young people lack knowledge of the dangers of work and their rights as workers. They are the most vulnerable group in the workforce as they are statistically more likely to suffer injury or death at the workplace.

- Workers in BC can enter the workplace as young as 12 years of age.
- In BC, an average of 27 young workers between 15 and 24 have time-loss injuries every day.
- Every week, seven young workers are permanently disabled in BC.

The Day of Mourning BC Schools Project is a partnership of the BC Federation of Labour, BC Labour Heritage Centre, BC Principals’ and Vice-Principals’ Association, BC School Trustees’ Association, BC Teachers’ Federation, CUPE BC and WorkSafe BC.

Our goals:

- **encourage schools to participate in the Day of Mourning**
- **make students and young workers aware of their rights in the workplace**
- **reduce the number of deaths and injuries amongst young workers**

Project details, registration and downloads: domschools.ca

SUGGESTED PROJECT TIMETABLE LEADING UP TO APRIL 26

Wednesday, April 17	Day 1 PA announcement by student
Thursday, April 18	Day 2 PA announcement by student
Tuesday, April 23	Day 3 PA announcement by student
Wednesday, April 24	Day 4 PA announcement by student
Thursday, April 25	Day 5 PA announcement by student
Friday, April 26	Day of Mourning PA Address by school Principal plus other activities planned by your school

WHERE DO I START?

There are three levels of suggested involvement for any school commemorating the Day of Mourning. Teachers can adjust this list if they are participating at the classroom level. Find the best fit for you and your school.

Level 1:

Maybe this the first time your school has participated. Is your school's schedule for that week already pretty full? Do you desire a softer, less time intensive intro to the project? This level may be the best fit for your school this year if any of these apply. We recommend only following steps 1,2, 3 and 7 from the "7 Step Suggested Procedure" listed below and use the new "Abbreviated Announcement Scripts".

Level 2:

Have you done the Day of Mourning in your school before? Do you have a group of student volunteers you can rely on to help? If the answer is yes, level 2 involvement may be the best fit for your school, and we recommend that you follow all the "7 Step Suggested Procedure" listed below.

Level 3:

Are you and other staff in your school really invested in making the Day of Mourning commemoration as meaningful and interactive as possible? Have you scheduled this event in your school calendar? Then we recommend you follow all the "7 Step Suggested Procedure" and one or more of the "Other Suggested Activities." You may even have your own activity you wish to use during the Day of Mourning.

7 STEP PROCEDURE:

1. Enlist the help of student volunteers. Suggested groups you can target are student clubs, student council or leadership classes.
(Levels 1-3)
2. Have student volunteers put up posters around the school. **(Levels 1-3)**
3. Three school days prior to April 26th, have a student volunteer make a daily announcement reading from the script provided during the morning PA announcements, to inform and raise awareness of the Day of Mourning. **(Levels 1-3)**
4. Have volunteers prior to April 26 create a Young Worker Safety Information Display, containing visuals and statistics about youth worker safety in BC. **(Levels 2-3)**
5. On April 26, in the morning before classes, have volunteers set up display in main school entry point (an entry way or main foyer). Student volunteers can answer any questions about the significance of the DOM as students enter the school. **(Levels 2-3)**
6. Info Sheets and orange ribbon sticker decals will be distributed to 1st Block teachers before class. Teachers will then spend the first 10 minutes of the first class, handing out stickers, explaining the Day of Mourning, explaining the proper behaviour for the moment of silence, and will read aloud and discuss info sheet provided. **(Levels 2-3)**
7. During morning PA announcements, the Principal will lead a school wide moment of silence, reading from the provided script. **(Levels 1-3)**

OTHER SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR SCHOOL

- Student-led workshops on worker safety and the Day of Mourning
- Essay, short fiction or poetry contest on the topic of “Tragedy at Work”
- Video Contest: “Create a public service announcement promoting work place safety for young people.”
- Invite BC Fed “Alive After 5” speakers to your classroom.
- Invite speakers who have suffered a work place injury or lost a loved one to speak in class or a school assembly.
- Use the Labour History Project Resources at teachbc.bctf.ca to assist in teaching the history of labour rights in the Social Studies classroom.