



CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
SYNDICAT CANADIEN DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE

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March 15, 1986

TO ALL LOCALS AND STAFF

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Re: Day of Recognition for workers  
killed or injured on the job

Every year, more than 1,000 Canadian workers are killed on the job. Thousands more are permanently disabled, and hundreds of thousands are injured and suffer the pain and discomfort of temporary disabilities.

For the most part, these sacrifices go unrecognized. That is why for the past year the CUPE National Health and Safety Committee and I have been working for a day to be set aside for the recognition of the sacrifice that workers make to this country.

Eventually, our call for a day of recognition was taken up by the CLC and endorsed by other affiliates. Now, I am pleased to report that the CLC has decided to establish April 28th as labour's annual Day of Recognition. April 28th is symbolic, being the date that the first workers' compensation legislation was enacted in Canada (Ontario, 1914).

Now we need your support to ensure that the Day of Recognition is widely accepted and publicized. There are many ways you and/or your local could help. (One of the most important, I think, would be to write or make representations to your city or town council to have them declare April 28th a day of recognition for workers killed or injured on the job. A sample letter is attached.)

The CLC is presently preparing kits for all Labour Councils. The Labour Council will play an important role in coordinating the Day of Recognition efforts, so I would ask you to work closely with your local Council in all your activities.

**Jeff Rose**  
*Président national*  
*National President*

**Jean-Claude Laniel**  
*Secrétaire-trésorier national*  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**Benoit Doyon**  
**Mike Dumler**  
**Lucie Nicholson**  
**Tom O'Leary**  
**Jack Rodie**  
*Vice-présidents généraux*  
*General Vice-Presidents*

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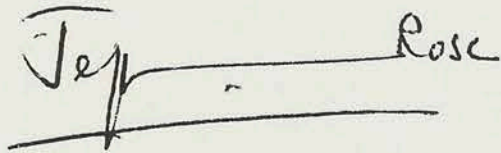
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES' UNION (C.U.P.E.)

Other possible ideas: requesting employers to have a minute's silence at the workplace; promoting special events; bargaining into the collective agreement appropriate means of marking the tradition; etc.

As I'm sure you will agree, this is an important initiative for the labour movement. Not only does it emphasize and highlight workers' contributions to society, but also it adds weight to our ongoing struggle to improve workplace health and safety.

Brother Laniel joins me in urging you to do whatever you can to make the Day of Recognition a success in 1986 and a tradition in years to come. For further information or advice, please contact our Department of Health and Safety at National Office.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Rose". The signature is written over two horizontal lines that serve as a baseline.

JEFF ROSE  
National President

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Encl.

SAMPLE

TO: Mayor \_\_\_\_\_  
City of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir/Madam:

More than 1000 Canadian workers are killed every year on the job. Thousands of others are permanently or temporarily disabled. The pain and suffering and sacrifice made by workers and their families goes unrecognized by society. The death of a policeman killed on the job rightfully is mourned by society as a whole. It receives national coverage and the loss to society is acknowledged. But the workplace death of a hydro lineman or a truck-driver or an assembly-line worker or a welfare worker - who also serve society - goes almost unreported and no one mourns except a small circle of family, friends and co-workers.

In keeping with the establishment by the Canadian Labour Congress of April 28th as labour's official Day of Recognition, CUPE Local \_\_\_\_\_ requests that City/Town Council proclaim April 28th as an annual official Day of Recognition for the sacrifice of workers who have been killed, injured or disabled on the job. We also request that the City/Town call for a one minute cessation of work at 11:00 a.m. on April 28th in recognition of such workers.

This would serve as a reminder of the need for safe and healthy workplaces and also serve as an incentive to all citizens to achieve this end.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.  
I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
CUPE Local \_\_\_\_\_

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