

## The National Day of Mourning – April 28, 2018

In 1996, when we were living in Flin Flon, our next-door neighbour was killed in an industrial accident at the smelter. The tragedy remains part of my memory.

The National Day of Mourning, held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, or suffered injury or illness on the job or due to a work-related tragedy. The most recent statistics from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada tell us that in 2016, 905 workplace deaths were recorded in Canada. Among those dead were 6 young workers aged 15-19; and another 20 workers aged 20-24.

### A PRAYER:

God of Ruth and Andrew, you work and you have made human beings with the ability and desire to work. We thank you for the gift of work.

We remember before you those whose work is dangerous – loggers, fishers, pilots and flight engineers, roofers, structural iron and steel workers, garbage and recyclables collectors, highway flag people, farmers. We pray for safety for these workers and all workers, grant protection we pray.

God of Dorcas and Bezalel, we mourn those who have lost their lives at work. Be with their co-workers, families and friends, may the grieving know comfort and hope.

We pray for those injured on the job, grant healing, restore hope and self-esteem. Teach us to show care to those who are unable to return to work after injury, including them in our social circle. Teach us to treat with respect those who return to work in modified employment. Give us grace that we might show grace to the injured and those seeking to return to work.

God of Priscilla and Aquila, we pray for safety officers and employee training programs. Use these programs, use the skills and foresight of safety officers, to develop and train workers for safe work environments. Give patience to workers when things seem to be moving too slowly or when they feel the need to rush, for so many accidents happen when people are acting in haste.

We pray for ourselves, for our families and friends, for co-workers and colleagues, for workers we meet and whose services we employ, keep us safe at work. Deepen our commitment to safe work practices.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose work was dangerous and whose followers did dangerous work. Amen.

Peter Bush, Moderator  
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada