



## News Release

For immediate release

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### **Workplace fatalities must be addressed: SFL**

The province's largest labour organization chose April 28 - the Day of Mourning for workers killed and injured on the job – to condemn the appallingly bad record Saskatchewan and Canada have for killing and injuring workers on the job.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour says work-related deaths and maimings in this province and country are outrageously high and governments and employers are guilty of dereliction of duty for not doing enough to bring the rates down.

The Federation of Labour points to the Workers' Compensation Board annual report which lists 26 Saskatchewan workers killed during their employment last year, more than 430 permanently maimed and over 37,000 other injuries, almost half of which required hospitalization, medical treatment or time off work to recover.

This is the highest rate of work-related death and crippling injuries in the country, and more must be done to reduce and eliminate this carnage.

The SFL also notes that among the G8 or OECD countries Canada has one of the worst records for fatalities and serious injuries on the worksite. Even in that context Saskatchewan stands out as one of the most dangerous places to work in the industrialized world.

In many other jurisdictions company owners or managers are jailed or very heavily fined when their negligence results in a worker dying. In Saskatchewan fines are extremely rare and so small as to be an accounting function rather than a deterrent.

It's time that employers who knowingly ignore the safety of their workers face the consequences of their negligence.

SFL president Larry Hubich said, "If they do the crime, they should do the time".

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