

April 28th is the International Day of Mourning – a day for people around the world to remember and honour those who have died or been seriously injured at work.

Workplace fatalities hit a tragic high in 2020. Thirty-two Nova Scotians died while at work, or because of work done in the past, in our province. One fatality is too many.

Grief and loss gripped the province throughout the year, challenging our resilience, perhaps like never before. As we navigated a global pandemic, we were also faced by what seemed like loss after senseless loss. Nova Scotians sought strength from one another in the face of Canada's deadliest mass shooting, the crashes of both a Canadian Armed Forces Snowbird aircraft in British Columbia and a helicopter off the coast of Greece, and the sinking of the Chief William Saulis. All of these tragedies, took working Nova Scotians from those who loved them.

The Day of Mourning gives us all the opportunity to pause and remember, while we also renew our commitment to improve health and safety.

To support this effort, we are telling [the story of Peter Kempton](#) through his daughters, Shannon Kempton and Carinna Ladouceur. Peter died tragically on September 21, 2013 after an explosion at the auto shop where he worked. Shannon and Carinna share their story of loss and the human impact of tragedy on their family.

Due to the pandemic, public Day of Mourning ceremonies will not be held again this year. However, a virtual ceremony is being planned, and details will be available at dayofmourning.ns.ca soon.

There are a number of ways you can observe the Day of Mourning in your workplace:

- Visit dayofmourning.ns.ca to view Peter Kempton's story, [order or download posters and digital screens](#) for use in your workplace, read other [moving stories](#) shared over the years, and more.
- Make a tribute at facebook.com/DayofMourningNS.
- Observe a moment of silence and participate in a [virtual ceremony](#).
- Lower flags to half-mast.

Peter Kempton's story is also featured in ads for TV and online, as an emotional reminder of the impact of workplace tragedies and the importance of workplace safety.

Please join us as we work together to make Nova Scotia workplaces safer.



Danny Cavanagh
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Hon. Lena Metlege Diab, Q.C.
Minister of Labour and
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