

Safety Sound-off

VIDC Occupational Health & Safety Committee Newsletter

Joseph Mairs Memorial: January 18, 2015

The Joseph Mairs Memorial Committee welcomes everyone to the 13th Annual Joseph Mairs Memorial at St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, 1135 4th Ave Ladysmith, BC at 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 18th, 2015.

Come and join with other working people to honour Our Labour Martyr, Joseph Mairs. As always, our general theme for the day is 'Our Common Condition'.

We are very pleased to announce that this year our keynote speaker is Mitchell Anderson.

Mitchell Anderson is a Vancouver based freelance writer and frequent contributor to the Tye. His research focuses on resource pricing and sustainability. In 2002, the Tye sent him on assignment to Norway to learn more about their oil fund that currently has more than \$900 billion in assets. He wrote a 10 part series comparing petroleum policy in Norway and Canada which shed light on the question of why Canada with our vast natural resources- is not a wealthier country.

His talk on January 18th is titled "Why Can't the Second Richest Country in the World Afford Postal Delivery?"

As always we will hold a discussion after Mitch speaks and we encourage everyone

to participate. Through this event, we hope to provide an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the need for the public ownership of our resources.

Again, this year we will enjoy live music by local musicians linked to the Labour Movement (Art Farquharson and friends, Beverley McKeen and friends and Charlie Fox - our splendidly talented family). All this will be technically perfect due to the skills of our sound person Mike Gagnon.

After the indoor programme, we will form a procession behind our long time piper Frank Nichols and walk to the cemetery to place flowers at the graveside of Joseph Mairs.

Joseph Mairs was a trade unionist and a coal miner. He died in 1914, a month short of his 22nd birthday, after being arrested by government troops during the Occupation of Ladysmith.

This struggle which coal miners on Vancouver

Island waged was for the eight hour day, health and safety regulations and union recognition.


Joseph rests in the Ladysmith Cemetery beneath a cairn his fellow miners erected in his honour with the inspiring inscription:

"A Martyr to a Noble Cause - The Emancipation of His Fellow Men".


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Joseph Mairs Memorial
1pm Sunday
January 18th 2015
St Mary's Church
1135 4th Avenue Ladysmith BC
*Join Us to Honour Our Labour Martyr
with Our Guest Speaker, Music
and an Open Forum*


*Our Labour Martyr
Joseph Mairs
1892-1914*

Our Common Condition
*Our Featured Speaker is Mitch Anderson
Prolific Tye Contributor*


**Why Can't
The Second Richest Country
In The World
Afford Postal Delivery?**

For More Information Please Contact
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Web: josephmairs.ca
Honour Our Martyr Joseph Mairs

Heath & Safety

Dates to remember:

- January 18, 2015: **Joseph Mairs Memorial**
- February 25, 2015: **Anti-Bullying Day**
- April 28, 2015: **Day of Mourning**
- June 14-16, 2015: **BC Municipal Safety Conference, Whistler, BC**

For more information contact:

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Find us at Facebook – Honour Our Labour Martyr Joseph Mairs

What's Wong with this Picture?

There are some things seriously wrong with this picture!! See if you can spot the issues and send them by February 2, 2015 to: vpcupe374@gmail.com to have your name entered to win a prize. The lucky winner will be announced at the May 2015 VIDC meeting and list of issues will be published in the next newsletter along with the next photo!



Last Issue`s Winner: Deborah Hopper

- ◆ Power box above water drain;
- ◆ Water pipe crossing behind electrical lines;
- ◆ Power box next to sink.

The prize this month is sponsored by the VIDC OH&S Committee!



CUPE BC OH&S Conference: Workplace Psychological Health

Held in Victoria October 22-24, the theme of this conference was building safe psychological and physical workplaces. It was a packed conference both with delegates and information!

Dr. Jennifer Newman started the conference off as keynote speaker, talking about creating and maintaining safe and psychologically healthy workplaces and the role of OH&S committee, as well as presenting insights of an unhealthy and unsafe workplace behaviour continuum

The following day's panel discussion featured Kathleen Fleming from Workplace BC, retired health & safety activist Barry O'Neill and Jim Sayre, former Chair of the Workers' Compensation Advocacy Group sharing insights on different aspects of psychologically healthy workplaces.

For the remainder of the conference, participants had the opportunity to attend three workshops. Topics covered were: Ergonomics; assisting workers with workplace mental health issues; knowing your rights; bullying & harassment; occupational hazards, diseases & near hits and misses – inside and out; women's health & safety in the workplace; and violence in the workplace.

For more information as well as many of the presentations please - See more at: www.cupe.bc.ca/news/3584





Welcome to our VIDC Health and Safety Newsletter.

Our Committee members are:
Sarah Fairbrass, Chair; Ryan Foster; Martha Higgins; Robert Klassen; Kathy Mercer; Sherene Ross.

www.vidc.cupe.ca

Since 2000, over **10,000** Canadians have died because their employer failed to keep their workplace safe

Meanwhile... not one employer has gone to jail

Age 65 & still working ... What about WorkSafe BC coverage?

While the average age of CUPE members is in the mid 40's, WorkSafe BC Coverage is a growing concern. Questions include whether workers are covered by WorkSafeBC, if they can get a pension (disability award) and when coverage begins and ends.

As a general guideline, a worker who gets injured between age 63 and 65 will have two years of WorkSafeBC coverage. If the worker can demonstrate that they in-

formed the employer and/or WorkSafeBC prior to age 63 (and the injury) that they would continue working, a new claim, pension or existing pension may be possible post age 65.


Find more information from the guide to WorkSafeBC beyond age 65 at <http://www.cupe.bc.ca/committees/occupational-health-and-safety>.

Winter Driving

Every day in B.C. drivers are at risk of being injured or killed while on the road. As the weather changes from fall to winter, the chances of being involved in a crash dramatically increase.

Winter driving can be hazardous. Factors such as rain, snow, ice, sleet, fog, and limited daylight hours present real challenges to motorists, whether they drive for work or leisure. In fact, when it comes to winter, the number of casualty crashes in which someone is killed or injured due to driving too fast for road conditions almost doubles from 13 in October to 26 in December.¹ In addition, more work-related vehicle crashes causing time-loss injuries occur between October and February.

For more information on winter driving, safety tool kits and more info, go to http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/RoadSafety/Winter_Driving.asp.



Every worker must take reasonable care to protect the worker's health and safety and the health and safety of other persons who may be affected by the worker's acts or omissions at work.

