



Public Service Alliance of Canada, North (PSAC North)  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Public Service Alliance of Canada and other labour unions are pushing for stronger health and safety regulations after a series of tragic workplace deaths in the Yukon.

Already, four workers have been killed on the job in 2014, surpassing the three workers who lost their lives in 2013.

Vikki Quocksister, President of the Yukon Federation of Labour, said Health and Safety in the workplace needs to be a top priority for employers.

“Workers deserve to have strong Health and Safety regulations at work,” she said. “They deserve to go to work every day and to know they’re going to come home safely to their families.”

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is holding a march from the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to the new Workers’ Memorial under construction along the Yukon River.

A rally at the Memorial will commemorate the lives of all workers killed or injured in the line of work.

The Conservative government has gutted health and safety regulations with Bill C-4, the Budget Implementation Act.

The Bill re-defines the meaning of danger to only include ‘imminent risk,’ makes it harder for employees to refuse unsafe work and slashes the number of workplace inspectors.

The bill is undemocratic and its effects trickle down to every workplace in Canada, putting workers’ lives at risk.

**Event:** Rally and March

**Date:** Friday, June 6, 2014

**Time:** 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** March from Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to rally at Workers’ Memorial

The public and the media are invited to join the Public Service Alliance of Canada and its labour partners to take part in the march and rally to highlight the vital role health and

safety regulations play in the workplace and how the Conservative government is putting Canadian workers at risk.

Strong initiatives to improve health and safety conditions have had a positive impact in the North. Lost time claims have dropped by nearly 30% between 2003 and 2012, according to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

**Speakers:**

**Chris Aylward:** Public Service Alliance of Canada National Executive Vice President

**Steve Geick:** President of the Yukon Employees' Union

**Vikki Quocksister:** President of the Yukon Federation of Labour

**Mary Lou Cherwaty:** President of the Yukon Federation of Labour

**Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada Statistics:**

- In Canada, between 2003-2012 inclusive, there were almost 2.99 million cases involving lost-time across all age groups.
- On average, there are approximately 299,000 lost-time cases per year
- In 2012, there were 245,000 lost-time cases, compared to 348,700 lost-time cases in 2003
- Over the 10-year period, the largest jurisdictions (AB, B.C., Ont. And Que.) accounted for 83.6% of all lost-time claims in Canada.
- Yukon accounted for only 0.2% of all lost-time claims in Canada, with the Northern Territories combined accounting for 0.5% of all lost-time claims.

*Statistics supplied by the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board*

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***Workers' Memorial***

*The Workers' Memorial is being sculpted by artist Belo Simo to commemorate the 55 Yukoners who have been killed on the job since 1984. Every year, thousands more are killed or injured at their workplaces. It is a permanent memorial to the parents, children, relatives and friends that have paid the ultimate price to build the territory.*

*The spot overlooking the Yukon River will provide a peaceful space for people to contemplate and remember those we have lost. The memorial will bear the names of people killed in Yukon workplaces and provide a focal point when tragedy strikes again.*

*The memorial is slated to be completed by June 23, 2014.*

***The Public Service Alliance of Canada***

*PSAC North is Canada's largest union North of 60, representing more than 13,000 members in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We span a landmass equal to all western provinces put together, plus Ontario. Our members live in larger urban centers as well as small, isolated communities without road access. Our headquarters is in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, with regional offices in Whitehorse and Iqaluit.*