

Resource Information for 2007 Day of Mourning

Data from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada show that there were 1,097 workplace fatalities in Canada in 2005. This is up significantly from 798 in 1998.

- **798 deaths in 1998**
- **835 deaths in 1999**
- **882 deaths in 2000**
- **920 deaths in 2001**
- **934 deaths in 2002 and**
- **963 deaths in 2003**
- **928 deaths in 2004**
- **1,097 deaths in 2005**

Since 1984, **18,829** workers in Canada have been **killed** on the job and over **18 million** have been **injured**. Almost 6,000 deaths and over a million injuries since 2000. In 2005 the numbers showed a significant rise due almost entirely to an increase in occupational disease, which rose from 1.5% to 3.4% per 1000 workers between 1996 and 2005. This increase represents over three work-related deaths for each day of the year or one death for every 15,000 workers.

We continue to see alarming numbers in the deaths in certain industries. Manufacturing and Construction continue to top the list.

A frightening thought is the inaccuracy of these numbers. As anyone who has the misfortune of making a claim through their Worker's Compensation Board can attest, it is extremely difficult to prove injuries or deaths due to diseases that have been contracted through the workplace. A study done earlier this year points to the significant increase in fatalities caused by occupational diseases mainly asbestos related. Asbestos-related deaths alone account for a significant percentage of the increase in occupational disease with the fatality rate rising from 0.4 % per 100,000 workers in 1996 to 2.1% in 2005. In addition, because there are industries and businesses that are not covered under a workers' compensation act, the federal Department of Labour believes statistics the department was gathering up until 2000 on injury and fatality rates could have been underestimated by as much as 19%.

Even worse, is the fact that many of these deaths and injuries are attributable to employer actions or negligence and were entirely preventable had the employer adhered to current health and safety laws.

Canada also rates poorly in International terms with the 5th highest incidence of workplace fatalities out of 29 OECD countries. Only Korea, Mexico, Portugal and Turkey showed worse rates than Canada.

Following are some yearly stats from the Association of Worker Compensation Boards of Canada so that you can clearly see the increase.

Province	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
NL	27	38	26	23	23	23	25
PEI	3	0	5	1	-	1	1
NS	17	16	8	14	18	41	27
NB	20	7	15	17	7	12	12
QC	164	180	180	188	175	176	223
ON	283	301	328	383	378	365	412
MB	23	19	25	19	24	14	26
SK	34	31	35	23	35	30	27
AB	114	118	118	101	127	124	143
BC	147	157	168	158	170	136	189
NT/NU	2	13	11	6	5	5	10
YT	1	2	n/a	1	1	1	2
Total	835	882	919	934	963	928	1097

n/a: Statistics unavailable

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

NUMBER OF ACCEPTED TIME-LOSS INJURIES BY PROVINCE

	2005	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
NL	6640	6609	6173	5517	5247	4834	4821
PEI	2099	2066	1779	1475	r 1,241	1037	876
NS	8547	9232	9082	8724	8849	9173	8998
NB	5170	5354	5162	4685	4604	4185	4439
QC	116797	119135	112887	110244	107160	104209	99067
ON	100727	104154	98359	95568	93234	90397	89734
MB	18979	19721	18544	17919	17586	17260	17785
SK	13720	14945	15065	15623	15135	13880	14170
AB	35393	39393	38755	38426	37335	35969	36305
BC	70090	70661	66076	59530	56946	58289	60340
NT/NU	871	835	889	968	936	817	950
YT	417	397	445	495	442	452	445
Total	379450	392502	373216	359174	348715	340502	337930

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

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