

## NEWS RELEASE

Attention News/Business Editors:

### Ontario's Fallen Workers Honoured at Day of Mourning Ceremony

WSIB Unveils a Living Tribute to Illuminate the Critical Need for Workplace Safety

**TORONTO, April 28, 2008** – To mark the National Day of Mourning, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) held a solemn ceremony today and unveiled a Living Tribute to the millions of Ontarians whose lives have been forever changed by a workplace injury, illness or fatality.

The Hon. Steven W. Mahoney, P.C., Chair of the WSIB, gathered in remembrance with the Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Labour, and Lyle Hargrove, CAW, as well as other invited guests, WSIB staff and the general public in front of the Legislature Building at Queen's Park in Toronto.

"April 28th is a day to keep in our hearts and minds those workers and their families affected forever by workplace tragedies," said Steve Mahoney, WSIB Chair. "It is also a day to renew and refocus our commitment to the elimination of workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities. Together we can build a culture of workplace health and safety where every worker in this province returns home safely at the end of every workday."

Following a moment of silence at 11 a.m., a Living Tribute was unveiled and attendees were invited to light the interactive, electronic monument in honour of Ontarians touched by a workplace incident. Those not able to attend the ceremony can show their support and become part of the Living Tribute by visiting [www.prevent-it.ca](http://www.prevent-it.ca) and lighting a candle online.

Last year, 100 people were killed by traumatic fatalities at work in Ontario and over 270 from occupational disease. In addition, over 80,000 were injured seriously enough to miss work. For them, life will never be the same. And when you consider their families and friends, there are millions of Ontarians whose lives have been forever changed by a workplace incident.

Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) plays a key role in the province's occupational health and safety system. The WSIB administers no-fault workplace insurance for employers and their workers and is committed to the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses. The WSIB provides disability benefits, monitors the quality of healthcare, and assists in early and safe return to work for workers who are injured on the job or contract an occupational disease.

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Mr. Mahoney, please contact:

Christine Arnott

WSIB Media Relations

(416) 344-4202

[christine\\_arnott@wsib.on.ca](mailto:christine_arnott@wsib.on.ca)