

MLA wants legislation on violence in the workplace

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The MLA for Cape Breton Centre is hoping Premier Rodney MacDonald will introduce long-awaited violence in the workplace regulations, this week.

“I have been at this since 1999 and I am ready to reintroduce my bill to force workplace violence (regulations be) put into effect again, in this spring’s sitting of the legislature,” said Frank Corbett.

“However I would be quite happy to have Rodney MacDonald beat me to it. All I want is for workers to be safe.”

Corbett said Friday is the Day of Mourning for all workers injured or killed on the job.

“I can think of no better time for the new premier to show he takes these losses seriously than for him to finally institute these regulations.”

Corbett says public interest in employee safety from workplace violence has never been greater. He points to last week’s release of an independent national survey that found 62 per cent of Nova Scotians believe they will be injured on the job, and to the announcement last month that four major unions, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia Nurses Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, all want violence in the workplace regulations introduced as soon as possible.

“The draft regulations have been sitting on government’s desk since 1996. In the meantime too many Nova Scotians have been victims of violence at work.”