**Sample speech for any company/organization to use at a day of mourning ceremony**

Good morning/afternoon.

I’d like to thank everyone for participating in our Day of Mourning ceremony, especially the workers, employers, and family members who have come out today.

I’d also like to thank our community partners for joining us:

*[[[name everyone else who will be speaking at your ceremony; and name all organizations that are supporting the ceremony, such as labour groups, companies, professional organizations, supporting towns, etc.; and also name any dignitaries present, such as the local mayor(s), town councillors, MLAs, MPs, Senators, etc.]]].*

It’s important that all of us, as a community/workplace, come together to pay tribute to workers who have died on the job.

I’m sure many of us know someone who was injured at work, or got sick because of something they encountered at their jobsite.

In fact, some of us who are here today may have been hurt ourselves.

And some of us may have lost family members, friends, or co-workers because of incidents like this.

I can remember...

*[[[Tell the audience your own story about a time when you saw a co-worker or family member injured on the job or become sick as a result of workplace conditions - or your own experience getting hurt on the job... What happened? How did you feel? How did your co-workers feel? What effect did this accident have on your workplace? How did you and your co-workers move on afterwards? Were there any changes to make things better?]]]*

And the sad fact is that incidents like this still happen.

Last year, 140 B.C. workers died as a result of workplace incidents and diseases, and many more were injured or became ill.

Just like the people who were close to us, these workers were important to their communities too.

They were parents, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, friends, co-workers, team-members, coaches, and neighbours.

When they died, their workplaces and their communities lost a piece of themselves.

That’s why it’s important that we come together to remember our fallen workers, because they were a part of us, and their loss affects all of us.

Being a part of this ceremony is an opportunity for us to support one-another as we deal with this loss.

But it’s also important because this is an opportunity for all of us, as co-workers, as families, and as a community, to renew our commitment to creating healthy and safe workplaces for everyone.

Because every workplace injury, illness, and death is preventable.

This is the time for all of us — as workers and employers — to talk openly, honestly, and positively about what we can do together to make our jobsites safer, to improve training for new staff, and to ensure that everyone at work looks out for the safety of everyone else.

This is the time for us — as workers — to remind ourselves that we have a commitment to our families and friends to be safe at work so we can come home to them every day.

This is a time for our families to tell workers and employers that we have a duty to be safe and healthy, to keep our community whole.

We can make a real difference this way if we take this opportunity now, while it’s in front of us.

Let’s honour our fallen workers by making a new legacy for them — one that’s about more than just what we’ve lost, but one that’s about how they’ve inspired us to make things better, so that everyone comes home safe and healthy.