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PM HARPER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS
AT UTI IN BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

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RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Canadian Prime Minister): Well, first of all, I want to say I've got an announcement today. I want to say a couple of things about that. I first want to say a couple things about Ukraine, but before we begin all of that, let's just have one big hand of appreciation for our folks here at UTI for hosting us today.

(Applause)

RT HON STEPHEN HARPER: I said I wanted to address the Ukraine situation first because we notice a lot of events are occurring there and various leaders have engaged on that in the last few days.

Je voudrais répéter la nécessité du monde de prendre au sérieux l'agression russe dans l'Ukraine. Évidemment le gouvernement du Canada a répondu d'une façon forte mais la violence continue, la violence augmente et c'est nécessaire de faire plus, à notre avis, mais toujours nous travaillerons avec nos alliés et nos partenaires.

So just to repeat that, we've seen once again increases in the violence in Russian aggression in that country. Canada's responded strongly as have many of our allies but I think all of this indicates we need, if anything, to do more. We urge everybody to do more, to have a forceful response. But obviously we will always work with our allies and our partners as we shape our response to those events.

Alors, maintenant, now I want to talk a little bit about what brings us here today. As I've said many times before, nous sommes dans une économie mondiale très fragile. On a vu ça récemment avec les développements, la volatilité aux marchés, y compris la chute du prix du pétrole. C'est les grandes

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nouvelles mais d'autre chose. Mais toujours je peux assurer la population canadienne que le gouvernement a un plan d'action économique à long terme pour baisser nos taxes et nos impôts, équilibrer nos budgets et assurer des investissements ciblés sur la capacité de croissance de notre économie. Et on va continuer dans ce chemin qui est un bilan exceptionnel parmi les pays développés.

So just to repeat that, as we all know, we remain in a very challenging global economy. We've seen, once again, renewed volatility everywhere. Obviously we're all familiar in Canada with the fall of the oil price, but there's... that's just one part of market volatility all around the world that we are concerned about.

Let me just assure all Canadians that we remain committed to the long-term path we have set under our Economic Action Plan. That's to make sure we keep our taxes, keep lowering our taxes and keep them down, balancing our budgets, and making targeted investments in our economy that will grow our economy in the long term.

And one of the things we have invested in as a government for some years, in fact we have increased programs in this area, has been in the whole area of support for small business and particularly support for entrepreneurship. Earlier today we met. We saw a demonstration from Spinmaster of some of the great products they produce. This is a company that got its start under... under a program that's now called *Futurpreneur* that our government has supported for some time. And it's a program we want to continue supporting.

Alors, je suis ici aujourd'hui pour annoncer notre intention de continuer notre appui pour un autre deux ans. On va continuer nos investissements

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dans ce programme qui a déjà créé des milliers d'emplois pour les familles canadiennes.

So that's my announcement, that *Futurpreneur*, the longstanding program that has literally created thousands of businesses and jobs across this country and the Government of Canada is announcing today we're extending that program for another two years to develop entrepreneurship in this country.

(Applause)

I want to thank all my colleagues who continue to work on these plans. I'm joined for this announcement by the regional Minister, the Minister for this area, Minister of Sport, Bal Gosal, also minister of Small Business and Tourism, whose program, whose jurisdiction this is actually under, Maxime Bernier. And of course also local member of Parliament from the region here, Parm Gill. So I thank all of them for joining us here today as well.

(Applause)

And of course I want to thank Julia Deans who's also with us, who is the leader of this vast network. It used to be called the Youth Business Foundation, now called *Futurpreneur*.

JULIA DEANS (Chief Executive Officer, *Futurpreneur* Canada): Yes.

RT HON STEPHEN HARPER: Great partner for the government for many years, as I said, with great achievements for our economy, and she's going to take this money and achieve greater things going forward. So thank you for being here, Julia.

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JULIA DEANS: Thank you, sir.

RT HON STEPHEN HARPER: I appreciate it.

(Applause)

JULIA DEANS: Thank you. Thank you so much, Prime Minister. We are very, very grateful for this announcement today and for the government of Canada's enduring partnership.

(Words: 857)

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