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**PRIME MINISTER'S PHOTO-OP AT CHINA CANADA GREEN
BUILDING DESIGN CENTRE**

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For Internal Information and Research Purposes only

(PEOPLE SPEAKING QUIETLY)

UNIDENTIFIED: And the stairs (inaudible).

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): (Inaudible)

UNIDENTIFIED: This is the model we want to show the students. It's (inaudible) two by four system. Most of the Chinese, they can't stand wood, but not this...

LAUREEN HARPER (Prime Minister's Wife): Not the two by four, 16 on centre.

UNIDENTIFIED: This post and beam structure. So we don't want to show the contrast these walls and floors, everything.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: So this is a home that's being built?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, this is a type of home.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: How big a home would that be?

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible)

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Ok, so it's a good size. It's a good size.

LAUREEN HARPER: But this is a perfect little... You can tell (inaudible) on all this stuff, and the little two by fours, headers.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Very detailed.

UNIDENTIFIED: Very detailed. And it is built in China by Chinese workers. And we want to show, the most (inaudible) here is SPF, means spruce-pine-fir from west coast.

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RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: So how common are truly wood buildings to China?

UNIDENTIFIED: More and more, Chinese, they want to have a second home, a villa, so it's a huge demand for these kind of houses.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: So this is for cottages (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, yeah.

LAUREEN HARPER: And do you have a factory for the trusses?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, exactly. Yeah, they have a factory (inaudible) trusses. And they build floors and walls...

LAUREEN HARPER: So that just comes in on a big truck, and then they just put it together.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, that's why another (inaudible) is built very fast, much faster than concrete.

LAUREEN HARPER: So did the walls come... do you pre-build the walls too, or do you build the walls on site?

UNIDENTIFIED: Both. Some developer wants to build on site, some want it built in the factory.

UNIDENTIFIED: Do they need changes in building code to do this?

UNIDENTIFIED: So far the Chinese building code allows to build three storeys. So they need to improve them, maybe up to six storeys, like we see in Canada. Right now we see a demonstration in (inaudible).

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UNIDENTIFIED: In (inaudible)? I was there, yes, that's right. Which is four storeys.

UNIDENTIFIED: It's four storeys. So they're just starting. Maybe in the future we'll have six storeys buildings in China.

LAUREEN HARPER: This is really fascinating. It's just perfectly done, isn't it?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: (Inaudible).

LAUREEN HARPER: It's really cute. But it's just so perfect! Everything about it is perfect!

UNIDENTIFIED: Chinese workers are very smart. They're learning very fast.

LAUREEN HARPER: Yeah, no, it's really, it's perfect, yeah!

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I'm surprised with China's great (inaudible) it doesn't have more lumber of its own.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, we've increased our exports to China incredibly from 35 million in 2000 to...

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: It's about (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, (inaudible).

LAUREEN HARPER: I just love this little (inaudible). This is so good, the trusses on the front, and...

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: (Inaudible).

LAUREEN HARPER: I know! I know! I (inaudible). Well, my father was in the building industry. My father was an electrician.

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, really? Oh, really? Great.

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LAUREEN HARPER: So when I was a little girl, I would always be going in houses (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED: You can be the teacher here.

LAUREEN HARPER: Yes! (Inaudible)

605 words

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