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PRIME MINISTER'S MEDIA AVAILABILITY IN SASKATOON

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MODERATOR: The Prime Minister will now take questions from the media. When I call your name, if you could please make your way to the microphone, which is on your right. We'll start with Colin Thomas from CTV.

REPORTER: Hi, Prime Minister. Over here, sir. It's great that defibrillators are going into these hockey arenas. Millions of Canadians play other sports and are at similar risk. Could you expand this program to people who play soccer or baseball, or...?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Well, one step at a time. You know, the reason we've chosen hockey is it does present certain high risks, and these kinds of incidents are fairly common, unfortunately common in hockey rinks, because it is such a high stress sport, a lot of stopping and starting. You know, you're... you go cold, then you go all out, then you go cold, which experts will tell you is about the worst thing you can do. And it's often played, of course, by people who are at higher risk. It's the reason why we started here. I think the key, if we consider any expansion in the future, will not necessarily be for different sports, but where else in a community would you locate a defibrillator so that it's most available, or most likely to be available when people actually experience a cardiac arrest.

MODERATOR: We will continue with Lisa Mersic from Sun News.

REPORTER: Hi, Prime Minister. I have a very off-topic question. I'm just wondering how concerned you are that Chinese military is hacking into Canadian computers, including computer systems that actually

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regulate infrastructure, like pipelines. And I guess as sort of a second part to that, if you'll be bringing this up with the Chinese leadership?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Look, all I can say is this: we are certainly aware of these kinds of security threats and risks that exist. We have professionals who constantly evaluate them and work with partners on addressing them. But beyond that, as I think you know, I never comment publicly on the specifics of national security matters.

MODÉRATEUR : On va continuer avec Pascale Bouchard de Radio-Canada, s'il vous plaît.

JOURNALISTE : Monsieur le Premier Ministre, c'est un sujet qui a fait l'objet d'un reportage récemment à Radio-Canada, et nous aimerions savoir pourquoi votre gouvernement n'a pas l'intention de faire une commission royale d'enquête sur les femmes autochtones disparues ou assassinées?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER : Comme je dis à plusieurs reprises, on a étudié cette affaire beaucoup de fois, et en effet, il y a encore, il y a encore une autre étude à la Chambre des communes dans des mois à venir. Nous pensons que c'est maintenant le temps à agir, de passer à l'action. Et nous avons fait plusieurs choses pour tenter de prévenir une telle tragédie et pour augmenter la capacité de faire des enquêtes sur ces choses. Mais c'est une affaire... ce sont des affaires de criminalité, et à mon avis, c'est essentiel de les traiter comme des affaires criminelles, pas comme des affaires sociologiques. Ce sont des affaires criminelles, et on doit agir aussi rapide que possible.

MODERATOR: We're going to finish with Dan Cursley from CBC.

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REPORTER: Hi, Mr. Prime Minister, if you could answer in both English and French for this question, I would appreciate that. Is it appropriate to send public servants to the homes of EI recipients to interview them about their claims?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I will just say that, you know, every year unfortunately in our Employment Insurance system, hundreds of millions of dollars are identified or are lost through false or fraudulent or inappropriate claims. And one of the jobs of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is to ensure that the funds in the Employment Insurance system are there for people who have lost their jobs who qualify and who need that help.

MODÉRATEUR : Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER : Merci, tout le monde.

And by the way, one more thank you. I didn't... I introduced everybody else. I just want to thank the Blues and the Gladiators hockey teams for being our backdrop today. Good luck (inaudible).
(APPLAUSE)

(730 words)

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