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RIGHT HONORABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Canadian Prime Minister): Well, good evening, everyone. We're obviously here continuing our travel in the Middle East and in Jordan and unfortunately become aware of events back home in Canada.

J'ai appris, je viens d'apprendre d'une terrible tragédie à la communauté d'Ile Verte au Québec. Il semble qu'il y a un terrible incendie. On peut ... on peut garder un peu d'espoir mais la réalité semble qu'il y a une perte de vie considérable. Et évidemment ça va causer la douleur, les expressions de sympathie d'à travers le pays. Et Laureen, Christian, moi-même, tout le gouvernement, nous voulons exprimer toutes nos condoléances pour cette communauté. Nos pensées et nos prières sont avec la famille et les amis et toute la communauté qui sera sans doute touchée par cet incident.

Je voudrais exprimer aussi mes remerciements aux pompiers et aux premiers répondants qui ont tenté de sauver des vies dans des conditions météorologiques très difficiles. Je voudrais... je dois mentionner que notre ministre,

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le ministre Blaney, va se rendre au lieu pour surveiller la situation et pour représenter notre gouvernement.

So just to repeat that, this is obviously a terrible story coming out of a small community in Quebec, l'Ile Verte, where there has been a terrible fire. And while we can obviously keep some hope for those who are not yet accounted for, I think there's very little doubt that the loss of life is very considerable. This occurred at a senior citizens' residence and obviously in a community like that is going to touch just about every single family.

So we just to express, myself, Laureen, Christian, all members of our government obviously express our condolences for this terrible loss of life. I know this will... will be the subject of expressions of sadness and sympathy all across the country and I know this community and its families will be in everybody's thoughts and prayers in the next few days.

I should just mention as well that Minister Blaney is on his way to the community and he will obviously be taking an overview of the situation and representing our government on the ground.

Merci, tout le monde.

WORDS: 392

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