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**PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS AT ARCTIC WINTER GAMES**

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RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Bonsoir, good evening. Look at all these athletes and all these spectators. What a crowd! Give yourselves a big hand, this is great. (APPLAUSE) I want to thank President Thicke and thanks to the entire Arctic Winter Games Committee, the international committee for inviting me to kick off this, the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Arctic Winter Games. (APPLAUSE) Greetings to all honoured guests. Greetings to all the performers who are entertaining us tonight.

J'aimerais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue à l'ensemble des athlètes, des entraîneurs, des organisateurs, des bénévoles qui sont ici pour assurer le succès de ces Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique.

But I'd like to give a special welcome to all the teams, the coaches, the athletes, the organizers, the volunteers who are here to make this the most successful Arctic Winter Games ever. (APPLAUSE) And let's give a special welcome to those who come to us from afar. It's great for us as Canadians to see so many of our fellow northerners from across the circumpolar region. (APPLAUSE) Athletes in particular, I know that many of you have worked hard to get here. I know that you will have memories and you will make connections and friendships over the next few days that will go on to last a lifetime. In 1970 Yellowknife was proud to host the very first Arctic Winter Games. The games...the games were designed to showcase and celebrate the very best in Arctic sportsmanship and culture. 38 years later, the games and the athletes and performers who participate in them are stronger and better than ever before. (APPLAUSE)

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Le thème de cette année, "Les étoiles du Nord inspirées par le rêve", illustre le potentiel illimité du Nord et les promesses d'un avenir brillant. Aux participants et aux organisateurs je dis vous êtes les étoiles les plus brillantes du ciel nordique.

This year's theme, "Northern Stars Inspired by Dreams" speaks to the limitless potential of the North and the promise of a bright future. To all of the participants and organizers, I say you are the brightest stars in the northern sky. That's why we are all here tonight. Good luck et bonne chance!  
(APPLAUSE)

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