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(Applause)

RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Canadian Prime Minister): Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, everybody. Merci. Bonjour, tout le monde. Good day, everyone.

I want to thank you all for that tremendous welcome, also thank Steven pour cette aimable présentation, for this very generous presentation. Also Peter MacKay, Minister MacKay, for serving as our master of ceremonies today. Costas Menegakis, Member of Parliament for this riding and for this centre that's been our host, welcome to you as well. Welcome to all of my Member of Parliament colleagues who are here today. We have an awful lot here representing us.

Also, I also want to greet the leaders of police forces, security agencies and citizen organizations who have also joined us today.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, as you know, I'm here to launch the next series of actions of our government, the actions our government is taking to protect Canadians from terrorism. But before I get to today's announcement, let me first talk about why these additional actions are necessary.

Depuis quelques années, un grand fléau enveloppe notre monde, un fléau qui devient de plus en plus puissant – le djihadisme violent.

Over the last few years, a great evil has been descending upon our world, an evil which has been growing more and more powerful: violent jihadism.

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Motivated by extremist distortions of Islam, its members use calculated, far-reaching violence and the threat of it to achieve their ends. Their ends, that is, the annihilation of anyone who dares to be different from them, of everyone who does not share their narrow and oppressive world view.

Le terrorisme djihadiste est l'un des ennemis les plus dangereux que notre monde ait jamais confronté. Dans certaines parties d'Asie et d'Afrique, des djihadistes trouvent refuge dans des états en déroute et des territoires sans gouvernement. Et sous leur influence, les attaques et les complots à l'extérieur de ces régions sont devenus plus fréquents et plus dangereux, y compris ici au Canada.

Jihadi terrorism as it is evolving is one of the most dangerous enemies our world has ever faced. In parts of Asia and Africa, jihadists are finding shelter in failed states and ungoverned territories. And under their influence attacks and plots outside these regions have become more frequent and more dangerous in Australia, in France and in Belgium just recently, and of course here at home in Canada.

Les forces policières et les organismes de sécurité du Canada se sont vigoureusement engagés à contrer de tels complots et en ont déjoué un grand nombre.

Canadian police and security agencies have been forcefully engaged against such plots and have foiled many. Just 30 or so kilometres from here, the Toronto 18 meant to bomb the CN Tower, attack Parliament, and murder MPs. Later, there was the vicious plan to attack and derail a VIA Rail train and kill Canadians.

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Mais parfois, Mesdames et Messieurs, des terroristes ont été capables de passer. Nous l'avons constaté lorsque d'innocents Canadiens ont été assassinés à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu et à Ottawa, au cœur même de notre démocratie.

But, ladies and gentlemen, sometimes terrorists have been able to get through. We saw this when innocent Canadians were murdered in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and in Ottawa at the very heart of our democracy.

We cannot avoid the stark reality.

Le terrorisme djihadiste n'est pas une possibilité future. C'est une réalité actuelle. Le djihadisme violent n'est pas simplement un danger ailleurs dans le monde. Il cherche à nous atteindre ici au Canada.

Jihadist terrorism is not a future possibility, it is a present reality. Violent jihadism is not just a danger somewhere else. It seeks to harm us here in Canada, in our cities, and in our neighbourhoods through horrific acts like deliberately driving a car at a defenceless man, or shooting a soldier in the back as he stands on guard at a War Memorial.

Les Canadiens et les Canadiennes sont ciblés par les terroristes, tout simplement parce que nous sommes Canadiens. Ils veulent nous faire du mal parce qu'ils détestent notre société et les valeurs qu'elle représente.

Canadians are targeted by these terrorists for no other reason than that we are Canadians. They want to harm us because they hate our society and the values it represents. Because they hate pluralism, they hate tolerance, and they hate the freedom of others, the freedom we enjoy.

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Par leurs actes, ces djihadistes ont déclaré la guerre au Canada. Et par leurs paroles, ils en incitent d'autres à se joindre à leur campagne de terreur contre les Canadiens.

Through their deeds, these jihadists have declared war on Canada and with their words, they urge others to join their campaign of terror against Canadians.

Ladies and gentlemen, it would be a grave mistake to ignore their threats. As one Wall Street Journal columnist recently put it, and I quote: So far, they have done pretty much everything they said they would do.

Notre gouvernement n'a jamais hésité à donner au terrorisme djihadiste son juste titre. Nous ne craignons pas de le condamner ni d'y faire face.

Our government has never hesitated to call jihadi terrorism what it is. And just as we are not afraid to condemn it, we are not afraid to confront it.

La plus grande responsabilité de notre gouvernement, de n'importe quel gouvernement canadien est d'assurer la sécurité des Canadiens et des Canadiennes et de notre pays.

The highest responsibility of our government, of any Canadian government is to keep Canadians safe and to keep our country secure.

(Applause)

C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement a engagé les Forces armées canadiennes dans la vaste coalition internationale contre le soi-disant État islamique.

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That's why our government committed the Canadian Armed Forces to the broad international coalition against the so-called Islamic State. We believe no Canadian government should ever stand on the sidelines while our allies act to deny terrorists a safe haven from which to plot violence against us.

And to be sure, ladies and gentlemen, let me just say this about them, because there's been some criticism of them, as you know. Their mission in Iraq is to advise and assist Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State. And if fired upon, they'll fire back. Some have criticized this as combat. I have a couple of other words for it, other "C" words. Not combat. Common sense and congratulations for the great job they're doing.

(Applause)

Ici au pays, nous avons aussi pris des mesures pour protéger les Canadiens.

Here at home, we've also taken steps to protect Canadians. In 2013, our government brought forward the Combating Terrorism Act, creating new criminal offenses for leaving or attempting to leave Canada for terrorist purposes.

Nous avons apporté d'importantes modifications à la Loi sur la citoyenneté qui nous permettent de révoquer la citoyenneté des personnes ayant une double citoyenneté et de la refuser aux résidents permanents reconnus coupables d'infractions liées au terrorisme.

We've also made important amendments to the Citizenship Act, enabling us to revoke citizenship for dual citizens and to deny it to permanent residents who are convicted of terrorist offences.

(Applause)

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We recently introduced Bill C-44 to clarify authorities for our security agencies. This is something we've done in direct response to court decisions.

But to fully protect Canadians from terrorism in response to evolving threats, we must take further action. The men and women staffing Canada's security agencies are professional, effective, and highly motivated. But recent terrorist attacks here and around the world have shown us that as the terrorists refine and adapt their methods, our police and national security agencies need additional tools and greater coordination.

Je suis heureux – aujourd'hui donc, il y a quelques instants – pour renforcer nos organismes de sécurité et accroître la sécurité des Canadiens et des Canadiennes, notre gouvernement a déposé un nouveau projet de loi robuste, la Loi anti-terroriste 2015.

And so I am pleased to announce that just a few moments ago, to strengthen our security agencies and to help make Canadians safer, our government introduced a strong new bill, the Anti-Terrorism Act 2015.

(Applause)

Cette législation rendra criminel l'apologie ou la promotion du terrorisme. Avec l'approbation d'un juge nos forces policières pourront placer en détention les présumés terroristes plus rapidement et pour plus longtemps. Nos organismes de sécurité pourront intervenir contre ceux qui complotent en vue de commettre des attaques terroristes et communiquer des renseignements liés à la sécurité aux ministères fédéraux.

Le programme de protection des passagers sera renforcé pour assurer la sécurité des avions et de leurs passagers. Et nos autorités seront en

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mesure d'éliminer la propagande terroriste qui vise souvent à faire du recrutement des sites web basés au Canada.

This legislation will make it a crime to advocate or promote terrorist attacks on Canadians.

(Applause)

With the approval of a judge, our police officers will be able to detain terror suspects more quickly and for longer, and our security agencies will be authorized to intervene against those plotting terrorist attacks, and to share security information across federal departments.

(Applause)

This legislation will also strengthen the Passenger Protect Program to ensure the safety of aircraft and the people who travel in them. And our authorities will be able to remove terrorist propaganda often intended for recruitment purposes from any Canadian-based website.

(Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, ours is a free, democratic and tolerant country and these measures seek to target those actions that threaten our freedom, our democracy, and our traditions of tolerance.

Canada's borders have and always will be open to those wishing to build a better life for themselves and for their families. But our borders will be closed to individuals with known terrorist ties and we will prevent those who pose a threat to Canada from obtaining Canadian citizenship.

(Applause)

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Ces nouvelles mesures ont été choisies soigneusement pour être vigoureuses et pratiques et accroître la sécurité, notre sécurité d'une manière qui renforce nos droits.

These new measures have been carefully chosen to be both strong and practical to enhance our security in a way that strengthens our rights. Through judicial oversight, these measures will protect the constitutional rights of Canadians, the rights of speech, association and religion among others. The rights that violent jihadists seek to destroy because violent jihadism is not a human right. It is an act of war.

(Applause)

Le djihadisme violent n'est pas un droit de la personne. C'est un acte de guerre.

And our government's new legislation fully understands that difference.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let me just close with this. This is the year 2015. We're tabling this legislation but we're doing many other things. We're also celebrating the 200th birthday of the leader of the Fathers of Confederation, our first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

As Sir John contemplated the Canada that he was trying to build, he said it would be one where citizens would have, quote: Absolute equality, equal rights of every kind, of language, of religion, of property and of person. For the 150 years since, Canadian prime ministers have repeated this pledge. For example, in the words of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, "Canadians are free to speak without fear, free to worship in our own way, free to stand for what we think

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right, free to oppose what we believe wrong, and free to choose who shall govern our country.”

And not now, not ever will we allow these rights and freedoms to be taken from us.

(Applause)

Not now, not ever will we be intimidated into changing our country and our blessed Canadian way of life. Not now, not ever will Canadians stand on the sidelines and watch as the values we hold dear and the people we love are threatened.

Nous renouvelons aujourd'hui et chaque jour notre engagement à défendre nos valeurs et nous opposer à ceux qui voudraient les éliminer.

Let us today and every day renew our pledge to uphold our values and to oppose those who would destroy them.

Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

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