

**Thoughts on the Canadian permanent residents killed on Flight 752**

We know that 63 Canadian citizens have been killed in the terrible tragedy of the Ukrainian airplane shot down near Tehran. Let's not forget that twenty to thirty permanent residents of Canada were also on that flight and killed.

One of the characteristics of Canada is that permanent residency is the last step before citizenship, and that almost all immigrants to Canada become citizens within five years. This is central to the Canadian philosophy of citizenship. We want people to belong. So we think of permanent residents as Canadians-in-the-making. And we think of immigrants as soon-to-become permanent residents. And they think of themselves as Canadians in that same way. This is an important part of the commitment between immigrants and Canadian citizens. The noble gesture of immigration leads to citizenship. We know that and, at our best, act accordingly.

So in reality we have probably lost close to a hundred Canadians and Canadians-in-the-making. The commitment of those permanent residents is as moving, as important and as tragic as those who were born here or were new Canadians. Let's not forget them.