

Two really are better than one

Just weeks away from her due date and competing in Star golf tourney, Toronto's Ashley Crain says her baby bump has improved her game



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

Ashley Crain tees off on the 5th hole on the first day of the Toronto Star Women's Amateur golf tournament at Weston Golf and Country Club. Despite several rain delays, she finished the day 8 over par. Story on S9

HARPER TO AIR INDIA VICTIMS:

'We are sorry'

25 years after 'evil, despicable' terror bombing, apology paves way for compensation to families

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OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA—At a national memorial Wednesday in Toronto for 329 Air India victims, families still mourning their loved ones finally will hear the words they have waited 25 years for.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in an address marking the anniversary of the bombing and his first public comments on what he called a "damning" inquiry report, will acknowledge the catastrophic failures of intelligence, policing and air security that led to the bombing, and the prosecutorial lapses that followed.

His message will be a formal apology on behalf of the government to the victims' families, transmitted with the simplest of words:

"We are sorry."

According to excerpts of his remarks obtained by the *Star*, Harper intends to outline a bald truth that has dogged successive governments, Conservative and Liberal, which had refused to call an inquiry.

"The destruction of Air India Flight 182 on June 23, 1985 was, and remains, the single worst act of terrorism in Canadian history," Harper's address says.

Harper's address and formal apol-

ogy attempt to capture the sheer horror of a disaster that has not eased with time: "We know only that terrorism is an enemy with a thousand faces, and a hatred that festers in the darkest spots of the human mind.

"This was evil. Perpetrated by cowards. Despicable. Senseless. And vicious."

Harper also will acknowledge that the words come late, and may offer only a small measure of comfort.

"Some wounds are too deep to be healed even by the remedy of time.

"We are sorry."

In 2006, Harper named former Supreme Court justice John Major to conduct an inquiry that last week concluded a "cascading series of errors" failed to prevent the atrocity.

The apology now paves the way for *ex gratia* compensation payments that Major had urged. Major called for a special fund to be established — a recommendation that Harper's government had indicated it would "positively" act upon.

The federal government paid more than \$20 million in out-of-court settlements reached in 1990 with families who had launched civil suits.

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