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On this day last year, we witnessed a horrific terror attack by Hamas on Israel, resulting in the tragic loss of 1,200 lives, including eight Canadians, and the abduction of over 200 hostages. These brutal acts traumatized thousands and escalated tensions in an already volatile region, serving as a stark reminder of the deep-rooted grievances that have fueled the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for decades.

I continue to condemn these heinous attacks and reaffirm our support for Israel's right to defend itself, a right which Israel must exercise full accordance with international law. We call ever more urgently for a ceasefire and for the immediate release of all hostages still held captive. Hamas must lay down its arms and can have no legitimate role in the future governance of Gaza.

I fully endorse Canada's longstanding commitment to implementing a two-state solution to regional tensions. Both the State of Israel and a State for Palestinians must exist, and Canada must commit to achieve tangible results on such a crucial and complex issue with the skill, determination, and understanding that it requires.

While the terrible war in the region, with its desperate toll on civilians feels so close to many of us, we must find a way to continue to talk, and to navigate the varying points of view on the conflict and Canada's role, in a respectful way that allows all of us to feel safe. This past year has seen a startling and disturbing increase in antisemitism across Canada. We remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting Jewish communities and to building a country where everyone feels safe to practice their culture and faith. Jewish Canadians have the right to live proudly and openly as Jews without intimidation or fear.

As we commemorate this painful day, we stand with the Jewish community in solidarity. We hope that this tragic escalation can serve as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and a renewed commitment to achieving a just and lasting resolution for both Israelis and Palestinians. Peace can and must prevail.

I will continue to ensure that the voices of the many Yukoners pleading for the cessation of hostilities are heard in Ottawa.