

# THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Downtown on fire  
Photo: Thierryehrmann, Abode Of Chaos, Flickr

## Shock, grief and anger in Lac-Mégantic

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 2

A train crashed in Lac-Mégantic.

It happened in July.

The train was hauling crude oil.

The train track ran through  
the middle of town.

The train slid off the track.

It caught fire. It exploded.

The fire was very hot.

Most of downtown burned.

Oil spilt into the lake and the river.

Forty-seven people died. Many more  
were injured. Many lost their homes.

The Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway  
owned the train.

The cost to clean up will be huge.

The company does not have enough money.



Prime Minister Harper looks at the damage.  
Photo: PMWebphotos, Flickr

People without homes had to stay at the  
high school. Friends and neighbors  
bought food, diapers, toys and clothes.

Lac-Mégantic was a beautiful little town  
in Quebec. Everyone lost someone in the fire.  
Residents of Lac-Mégantic are angry,  
frustrated and sad.

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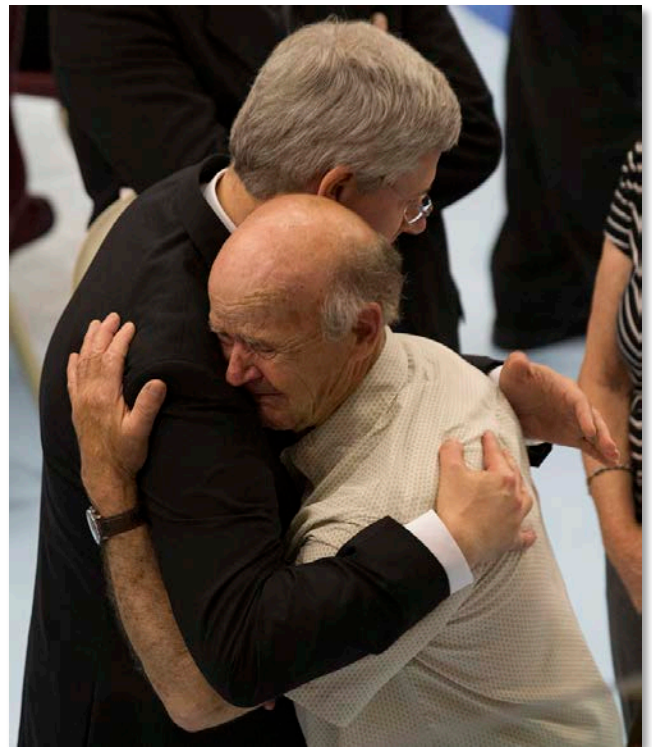
A **memorial** service was held for the whole town.  
Photo: PMWebphotos, Flickr



TV and Daisy  
Photo: Alain Dubois, Flickr

A house destroyed by the fire left only this TV. The daisy **symbolizes** patience and simple beauty.

Now the town must clean up and re-build. People must **grieve**. The town is quiet.



Prime Minister Harper hugs a survivor.  
Photo: PMWebphoto, Flickr

Thomas Arguin wrote a song about the **tragedy**. The song is called “A ceux qui restent”. In English this means “To those who remain.”

The song is for sale to raise money to help the town of Lac-Mégantic.

Listen to the music video at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_njyP1mwZA&feature=player\\_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_njyP1mwZA&feature=player_detailpage)

(Exercise is on the next page)

## **Exercise**

### **Vocabulary**

Memorial – an event to help remember

Symbolizes – to stand for

Grieve – to feel extremely sad

Tragedy – a very bad or fatal event

### **Test your understanding.**

1. Where is Lac Mégantic?
2. What happened in Lac Mégantic?
3. Who visited after the fire?
4. What did people do to help?
5. Where did some people have to stay?
6. What is the name of the song about the tragedy?

(Answers are on the next page)

**Answers:**

1. Quebec
2. Train crash
3. Prime Minister Harper
4. Bought food, diapers, toys and clothes
5. High schools
6. "A ceux qui restent" or "To those who remain"