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**THE LATE HONOURABLE LOIS E. HOLE, O.C.**

**Posthumous Award**

**Statement by:**

**The Honourable Claudette Tardif**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2005**

## THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

### THE LATE HONOURABLE LOIS E. HOLE, O.C.

#### POSTHUMOUS AWARD

**Hon. Claudette Tardif:** Honourable senators, on May 5, I had the privilege of attending a tribute dinner in Toronto organized by The Learning Partnership, a not-for-profit agency devoted to the advancement of public education in Canada. During the evening's ceremonies, a posthumous award was given to Lois Hole, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, who left us in January.

I had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Hole well and was honoured to be the one to receive the award on behalf of her family.

The educators of Canada chose this way of marking Ms. Hole's contribution to education throughout the country. In her twenty or so years as a school board member, and as chancellor of the University of Alberta, Lois Hole was a staunch supporter of public education. Promoting literacy was one of her priorities; she believed no one was too old to learn.

She was equally committed to children's rights, public health care, and the disadvantaged. As well, she was very actively involved in environmental protection and culture.

Ms. Hole had an unwavering faith in the advantages of bilingualism and was a staunch supporter of French immersion programs, the activities of Canadian Parents for French, and the work of Faculté Saint-Jean.

[*English*]

In accepting the award for Her Honour, the late Lois Hole, I was once again struck by the commitment and devotion this

amazing woman had to the cause of public education. She was beloved by all the people of Alberta, regardless of class, race, religion or ideology. Testimony after testimony from teachers, librarians, politicians, businessmen and journalists all bore witness to the utter conviction that the Lieutenant-Governor had about the intrinsic value of knowledge and the transformative capacity of an education in the life of an individual and society.

She was a tireless advocate of literacy and gave countless hours of her own time to interact with children in schools and libraries across the province, even as Lieutenant-Governor. The smiles and hugs of Her Honour gave hope and encouragement to thousands upon thousands of Alberta students, from a struggling reader in grade six to a graduating university student.

Honourable senators, I leave you today with the words of Her Honour herself. She said:

The heart and soul of Alberta doesn't lie in the rich farmland, the majestic Rockies, the precious oil fields or bustling cities. As wondrous and important as those features may be, that heart resides in our people.

Honourable senators, no greater example can I find of the true heart of Alberta than in the life of the late Honourable Dr. Lois E. Hole.

[*Translation*]

This was my first speech in the Senate and I am very pleased to have devoted it to expressing my recognition and respect for this great lady with whom I shared a great attachment to education and to Alberta. Lois Hole will continue to be an ongoing source of inspiration to me, and to many of my fellow Albertans.

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