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TRIBUTE TO THE HONOURABLE DANIEL HAYS, P.C.

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

[*Translation*]

TRIBUTES

THE HONOURABLE DANIEL HAYS, P.C.

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I want to add a few words to what my honourable colleagues have already said about our dear colleague and friend, the Honourable Dan Hays. It has been an enormous pleasure for me to represent Alberta in this chamber with a colleague who is so distinguished, so personable, so knowledgeable and so proud to be an Albertan. It is with sadness that I join you, dear colleagues, in paying tribute to him for the huge contribution he has made to this place.

[*English*]

Indeed, it has truly been an honour for me to serve as one of his colleagues in this chamber and as a fellow Albertan. Senator Hays has truly been an exemplary and wonderful colleague whose great contribution to this chamber and to the national political scene will be sorely missed.

When I was called to the Senate in 2005, Senator Hays was the Speaker of this chamber. As both the Speaker and a fellow Albertan, he was one of the first to welcome me to this chamber and to congratulate me. I must say that his kindness and thoughtfulness made me feel very welcome, and I want to thank him for that.

I also had the opportunity to see firsthand, while travelling with him as part of his Speaker's delegation to Ireland and Romania, how well he represented the Senate of Canada and the great respect with which he was received wherever he went.

[*Translation*]

Senator Hays has been a proud and distinguished representative not only of the Senate, but of our country abroad. With his

diplomacy, kindness and people skills, he always put people at ease, and over the years, he developed an extensive knowledge of our Parliament and our country and made a tremendous contribution to Canada.

I also admire the fact that, in the Senate, in committee and outside the Senate, he always made a point of not only using both official languages, but encouraging those around him to do the same.

Senator Hays nearly always greeted me in French with, "Bonjour, Claudette, comment ça va?"

• (1420)

[*English*]

I also wish to thank his lovely wife Kathy for her warmth, thoughtfulness and her undeniable contribution to the Senate as well.

Your presence, Kathy, your vitality and your support will be sorely missed on the Hill.

While I know that Senator Hays will continue to be active and to pursue his many interests, he will be dearly missed here in the Senate. Senator Hays has always contributed positively. He has been so thoughtful and has encouraged us to be thoughtful in our debates and reflections on how things unfold in this chamber. I thank him for that.

I wish you and Kathy all the best for the future. It has been a pleasure, indeed an honour, for me to have served in this chamber with you. I only wish it could have been so very much longer. I have so much yet to learn.

[*Translation*]

But this is just farewell, not goodbye.
