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## HUMAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Conference Board of Canada—  
Annual Report—Innovation

**Question by:**

**The Honourable Claudette Tardif**

**Thursday, June 14, 2007**

## THE SENATE

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[Translation]

### HUMAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA— ANNUAL REPORT—INNOVATION

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. This week, the Conference Board of Canada released its annual report, which is very critical of Canada's performance in a number of areas. According to today's issue of *Le Devoir*:

A harsh report by the Conference Board of Canada says that Canada's failure to innovate in several socio-economic areas is gradually turning the country into a land of mediocrity.

Canada receives two "D" grades, in innovation and the environment.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell us what the government, after 16 months in power, plans to do to stimulate innovation, increase productivity and help Canada catch up to other countries in terms of competitiveness?

• (1425)

[English]

**Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)):** I thank the honourable senator for the question. I read the report of the Conference Board of Canada because I am interested in the various studies, no matter where they are from. The honourable senator asked what the government will do in terms of increasing Canada's grade. Canada received good grades in some areas and not good grades in other areas; it depends how much faith individual Canadians put in reports of the various study groups. The government has acted on the issue of productivity and competitiveness. A substantive document was released last fall by the Minister of Finance entitled, "Advantage Canada." I would be happy to provide the honourable senator with a copy.

On the issue of the environment, as Senator Segal pointed out, Canada is faced with a situation that is well known. I am pleased to say that the plans announced for the environment now have the legitimacy of the European Union and the G8. The government has begun to implement some plans in Advantage Canada and regulations are being written in regard to the environment. All Canadians are becoming involved in the importance of clean air, clean water and reducing greenhouse gases such that the report card will be much better next year.