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**Consultations on Linguistic Duality and
Official Languages—Selection of Witnesses**

Question by

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

CONSULTATIONS ON LINGUISTIC DUALITY AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES—SELECTION OF WITNESSES

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Leader of the Government.

The Prime Minister appointed Bernard Lord to consult with organizations representing official language minority communities. These consultations are now finished. I am concerned that the consultations were by invitation only, so certain organizations felt aggrieved, particularly Impératif français, the Association des juristes d'expression française and many others.

Since the organizations were arbitrarily chosen, were the findings not already predetermined? Would the government not have chosen organizations to corroborate its own findings and objectives?

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)): I thank the honourable senator for the question. Bernard Lord is a very credible individual, and he has traveled across the country on these consultations. I am not aware that he has rejected any group that wanted to make a presentation. I believe the opposite is true. However, I will ascertain whether the particular groups that Senator Tardif mentioned asked for a meeting and, if they did, why they were not granted one.

• (1445)

[*Translation*]

Senator Tardif: I thank the Leader of the Government for her response. Could she also find out the criteria that were used to select organizations and, when she sees Mr. Lord, ask him which criteria he used to select the organizations that did appear?

[*English*]

Senator LeBreton: I would be happy to find out that information for the Honourable Senator Tardif.
