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**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND  
CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN**

**One Hundredth Anniversary**

**Statement by:**

**The Honourable Claudette Tardif**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008**

## THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN

#### ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I am very pleased to speak today about the one hundredth anniversary of the University of Alberta and its Campus Saint-Jean.

The year 1908 is historic because it marks the creation of one of the great institutions that would ensure the survival of the French fact in western Canada. Founded by the Oblate fathers in 1908, Campus Saint-Jean is celebrating 100 years of history.

There is been much change over the years: it went from a “juniorate” to a classical college to a university college to a faculty and is now Campus Saint-Jean. Throughout these changes, Campus Saint-Jean has always been able to adapt and has played an important role in French education and training for francophones and francophiles. Through its work, Campus Saint-Jean has largely contributed to the development of our country’s and our society’s values. It has also touched the lives of the thousands of people who have studied, taught and worked there.

I must say that I am very proud to have been part of the development of this noble institution, which is known worldwide for its excellence in teaching and research, as well as for the great work it does for the French fact in western Canada.

[*English*]

The Saint-Jean campus of the University of Alberta has a proud and rich history. Founded in 1908 in Pincher Creek, and relocated to Edmonton in 1910, Saint-Jean became the institution of choice

for the education of thousands of young men and women over the years. Saint-Jean’s destiny became intertwined with that of the University of Alberta in the 1970s, when the University of Alberta, with the help of the federal government, purchased the Collège Saint-Jean from the Oblate Fathers. It is significant that both institutions were founded in 1908 by visionaries whose dreams became reality, and that in this centennial year, we celebrate the history and contributions of both of these institutions to the building of our communities.

Today, the University of Alberta is one of the largest and most renowned universities in Canada and one of the most respected institutions of higher learning in the world.

Honourable senators, the University of Alberta will mark its centenary with a series of events and celebrations. The highlight event of the centenary celebrations — other than the university’s annual homecoming event in September 2008 — will be a Prime Minister’s Conversation Series. Throughout 2008, each of Canada’s six living former Prime Ministers will give a lecture based on the theme, “Advancing Canada: Changing the World.”

Honourable senators, it is hard to believe that only 100 years ago, the province of Alberta built its first university in Edmonton. It is even harder to believe that the province is only 103 years old. The province, the university and the people of Alberta have come a long way since then. Yet, it is my belief, honourable senators, that much of Alberta’s current success is a consequence of that original foresight. The province’s early leaders believed in the value of higher education and the educational systems they built and supported have given evidence to that belief.

[*Translation*]

I would like to sincerely congratulate both the Campus Saint-Jean and the University of Alberta.