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**Bilingual Services
for 2010 Winter Olympic Games**

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

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BILINGUAL SERVICES FOR 2010 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): This follows another equally scandalous situation. We learned this week from the Commissioner of Official Languages that the RCMP has hired a Vancouver firm, Contemporary Security Canada, which has been recruiting and posting signs only in English on the University of Ottawa campus, even though the positions are supposed to be bilingual. The positions are for reception and security for the 2010 Olympic Games.

The RCMP must comply with the Official Languages Act. Why is it that the recruitment and the posting of signs are only in English, when bilingual employees are needed for the Olympic Games?

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Seniors)): Honourable senators, I would have to look at

the testimony of the Commissioner of Official Languages. I am well aware of the situation at the Vancouver Olympics. As the honourable senator knows full well, the minister responsible made an announcement with regard to increasing funds considerably to ensure that the Vancouver Olympics are absolutely, totally bilingual. I am given to understand that the Commissioner of Official Languages applauded the government's actions in this regard.

With regard to the RCMP, I was not aware of the commissioner's testimony. There is obviously an explanation.

With regard to the Official Languages Act, I believe there was a celebration here a few weeks ago on the fortieth anniversary of the Official Languages Act. The government fully supports the Official Languages Act and has committed significant funds to the promotion of our French language and bilingual nature.

Rather than having people react to situations where perhaps there is a good explanation, I will find out exactly what the commissioner was referring to when he talked about the RCMP.
