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THE HONOURABLE JAMES S. COWAN

**Congratulations
on Receiving Honorary Doctorate**

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

THE SENATE

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THE HONOURABLE JAMES S. COWAN

CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING HONORARY DOCTORATE

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, a few days ago, our colleague, Senator Cowan, returned to his alma mater, Dalhousie University. However, while that was not a particularly unusual event — he has returned there many times since his student days, serving on Dalhousie's board of governors for a phenomenal 36 years, including six years as its chair — this time was, indeed, different. This time, he returned to receive a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Tardif: I managed to obtain a copy of Dalhousie's citation for this award. It speaks at length of Senator Cowan's dedication to the university, beginning in his student days when he was instrumental in negotiations that led to the construction of the Student Union Building, and continuing throughout the years since. He led the board of governors through lean financial times and has been with them to celebrate the university's successes with

enrolment growth, faculty renewal, financial stability and construction of new campus buildings.

According to Dalhousie: "This vitality stems, in no small part, from the exemplary leadership and vision displayed by James Cowan."

However, the award was given not only in gratitude for his work at Dalhousie University. The award also recognizes his many contributions — far too many for me to recite here, honourable senators — to his city of Halifax; his province of Nova Scotia; and his country. The citation reads:

For epitomizing the tradition, and for a lifetime of generosity and leadership to Dalhousie, his community and his country.

Senator Cowan, I know that all honourable senators join me in extending to you our sincere congratulations on this very well-deserved honour.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!
