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2007-08 Annual Report

Question by

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

2007-08 ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Madam Leader, the *Departmental Performance Report (DPR)*, 2008-09, of the Department of Canadian Heritage has already been published. Your government seems disinclined to publish a report on the status of official languages. However, the *Report on Official Languages 2007-08* has not yet been published. Soon it will be 2010. Can the government leader tell us when the report will be tabled?

[English]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Seniors)): I thank the honourable senator for the question. As honourable senators know, I have said many times that the government strongly supports Canada's linguistic duality. We have prepared the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality*, which provides the largest investment ever by a federal government: \$1.1 billion over five years. I will speak to my colleague the Honourable James Moore about providing further information and to find out exactly when he will have further information to provide on this matter.

[Translation]

Senator Tardif: The 2006-07 annual report on official languages was nearly two years late. It was not tabled in the Senate until

February 9 of this year. Yet the 2005-06 report was tabled much more quickly on June 19, 2007.

Will we be waiting three years for the 2007-08 report to be tabled?

[English]

Senator LeBreton: The government has embarked on a completely different program, with the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality* and the significant amount of money, \$1.1 billion, committed to it.

As the honourable senator is aware, on September 9, just a couple of months ago, Minister Moore announced that the University of Ottawa will administer the new Language Rights Support program and rely on the knowledge of a panel of experts who will be responsible for evaluating and selecting the files to be supported by the program. The program will have an annual budget of \$1.5 billion from the department's Development of Official-Language Communities Program. This program, which is administered by the University of Ottawa, has been supported and is the right way to go.

• (1510)

I will take as notice Senator Tardif's question about the full release of the report.