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## LA FRANCOPHONIE

### Quebec Declaration

Questions by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

[Translation]

### LA FRANCOPHONIE

#### QUEBEC DECLARATION

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Today and tomorrow, Minister Josée Verner will chair the 25th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie in Paris. During the conference, representatives of member states of the International Organization of La Francophonie will decide on priority areas for multilateral francophone action and discuss matters including the implementation of the declaration adopted at the October 2008 Quebec Summit.

Can the government leader tell us how the government plans to implement the Quebec Summit declaration?

[English]

**Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Seniors)):** I thank the honourable senator for the question. I will use this opportunity to put on the record that it was under a Conservative government that Canada joined the Francophonie.

With regard to Senator Tardif's specific question, I will take it as notice.

[Translation]

**Senator Tardif:** Honourable senators, allow me to read the fifth article of the declaration.

Convinced of the need to work together within a united Francophonie to provide, through targeted action, added value to peace, the rule of law, cooperation and sustainable development.

Madam Leader, one of the International Organization of La Francophonie's sustainable development strategies focuses on supporting access to energy and promoting renewable energy by strengthening national sustainable development strategies and encouraging the participation of developing and least developed countries in the multilateral regulation process.

The 2010-13 strategy will be put to a vote during the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie today and tomorrow.

Did Minister Verner work with the Minister of the Environment prior to the conference? What does the Canadian government have to offer in terms of a sustainable development strategy during this conference?

[English]

**Senator LeBreton:** Honourable senators, I suppose like Senator Fraser, Senator Tardif thinks that I cannot think or read.

Minister Verner is representing the government. I can simply say that, once she has responded on behalf of the government, I will be happy to provide the honourable senator with her response.