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**CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR CLIMATE
AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**

Questions by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. The Climate Action Network has said that the closure of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences will considerably reduce the amount of public funding for climate change science. Since 2000, the foundation has invested more than \$117 million in 198 research initiatives in Canada and has facilitated numerous scientific advances and discoveries. It is essential to the future of our country and our environment and to our future generations that we invest in studying climate change and developing green technology.

Why did the government decide to shut down the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences after ten years? This foundation has greatly contributed to research and to the dissemination of knowledge in this field.

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am afraid I will have to disappoint Senator Tardif just as I had to disappoint Senator Callbeck yesterday.

I want to be clear that this foundation has not been shut down. In fact, we have extended this mandate to 2012 to allow the foundation to report on the work it has undertaken with the \$110 million allotted to it over the last 10 years. I believe Canadian taxpayers expect this type of reporting when \$110 million has been spent on such a project.

I repeat; this foundation has not been shut down. It has been extended to 2012.

[*Translation*]

Senator Tardif: Honourable senators, if that is so, why, on March 5, did the chair of this foundation state that the scientific community was devastated and that the closure of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences would gut scientific climate research? Why would the chair of the foundation make this statement? Was the decision made after March 5?

[*English*]

Senator LeBreton: Honourable senators, I have no idea why the chair would say such a thing. Someone perhaps should ask the chair. Sometimes people say things that are reported in the newspaper and sometimes people actually believe what they read in the newspaper. It is shocking because, in most cases, what you read in the newspaper could not be further from the truth.

I cannot answer that question, honourable senators. I do not know why the individual would say such a thing.

An Hon. Senator: It is another Denis Coderre comment.

[*Translation*]

Senator Tardif: Can the minister confirm that funding will be available to continue International Polar Year activities?

[*English*]

Senator LeBreton: The work of the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory is part of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, and as I reported, this foundation has not been shut down; it has been extended to 2012.