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TRIBUTES TO
THE HONOURABLE JEAN LAPOINTE, O.C.

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

TRIBUTES

THE HONOURABLE JEAN LAPOINTE, O.C.

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I am pleased to pay tribute to the Honourable Jean Lapointe. He is a great humanitarian who is deserving of our respect and deep gratitude. He is a great artist whose memorable journey has left us with lasting works and who has received and is still receiving well-deserved honours.

He is a great senator who is not afraid to speak his mind, with passion and humour sometimes, but whose words are always able to captivate his audience.

Since his appointment to the Senate on June 13, 2001, by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Senator Lapointe has carried out his duties admirably, with generosity, kindness and dedication.

His experience and commitment to the disadvantaged were put to good use in the Senate.

Senator Lapointe, allow me to point out in particular the fact that you wanted and were determined to make our society better when you introduced and defended with firmness and perseverance your private member's bill to restrict video lottery terminals and slot machines to certain locations. Senator

Lapointe, you clearly demonstrated your humanity and your sincere conviction in tackling some serious social problems head on.

I am convinced that your efforts were not in vain and that your attempts to make Canadians aware of gambling addiction will bear fruit.

For my part, Senator Lapointe, I would like to tell you that I am very grateful for your affinity with and understanding of francophones in minority situations. I sensed true empathy on your part and sincere support that I will never forget. Coming from one of the great Quebecers who is so attached to his French language and an ambassador of La Francophonie through his works, I am touched by your desire to understand and promote the reality of francophone minority communities.

Senator Lapointe, do not forget that your actions, throughout your parliamentary career, have contributed to the evolution of our institution. You acquitted yourself honourably through the years you spent in the Senate. You will remain a source of inspiration for your colleagues.

I extend to you and your family my best wishes for happiness and health. I hope you will have new challenges, both personal and artistic, so that we will continue to be moved by and to enjoy your great talent for a long time.

Thank you, Senator Lapointe.
