



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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1st SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 148 • NUMBER 55

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## ELECTIONS CANADA

Electoral Boundaries

Question by

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

**THE SENATE**

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

*[Translation]***ELECTIONS CANADA****ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, as a result of complaints that official language minority communities were not taken into account during the last redistribution process, the Commissioner of Official Languages recommended that the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act be amended in order to ensure that these communities would be clearly identified and included in the definitions of “community of interest” or “community of identity” to be taken into account during the redistribution process.

The government still has not implemented the commissioner’s recommendations, which date back to 2006. Since it is too late to make such amendments to the legislation in time for the upcoming redistribution, will the government ensure that these

commissions take official language minority communities into account during this process?

*[English]*

**Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, that is interesting, but I do not believe this government was the government in office when the boundaries were last redrawn. If the Commissioner of Official Languages has some particular complaints, perhaps she should look in a mirror.

As the honourable senator states, the Commissioner of Official Languages made some recommendations in 2006, which happened to be the year that we formed the government. I am quite confident that the individuals responsible for redrawing the boundaries will take into consideration the representations of the Commissioner of Official Languages. As the honourable senator mentioned, there are public hearings into the various boundaries. I am sure that if people find that an area is not addressed properly, they will have ample opportunity to do so.

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