



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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cInéMAGINE

Tenth Annual Alberta French Film Festival

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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[Translation]

### CINÉMAGINE

TENTH ANNUAL ALBERTA FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, it was with great pleasure, excitement and pride that I attended the tenth annual cInéMAGINE, the Alberta French film festival, from June 1 to 3, in Lethbridge. I had the great privilege of being this year's honorary president of the festival.

[English]

Ten years of promoting the discovery of world-class French films and documentaries, of offering a wide range of cultural activities and of reuniting people who appreciate the arts and French language from across the province of Alberta was a milestone that I was very proud to recognize and celebrate. Nationally and internationally, renowned French films such as *La Sacrée*, *La route de l'Ouest*, *Monsieur Lazhar*, *Elle s'appelait Sarah*, and *Le Concert* were among the many films and documentaries presented to this year's festival-goers.

[Translation]

The festival's guests of honour were director Jonathan Levert, from Val-d'or, Quebec, and Franco-Ontarian actress Louison Danis. We were very fortunate to have such creative, talented and dynamic symbols of French-Canadian movie making among us.

Honourable senators, human creativity is the driving force behind social and economic growth. In addition to providing extraordinary economic spinoffs, arts and culture contribute significantly to building an identity. They fuel our sense of belonging to a group or community, give us a sense of pride and bring us together by strengthening social cohesion. All these elements are hard to measure, but are certainly important and confirm that arts and culture make our communities good places to live where individual growth and the growth of the community are appreciated.

As Swedish director Ingmar Bergman said:

Film as dream, film as music. No form of art goes beyond ordinary consciousness as film does, straight to our emotions, deep into the twilight room of the soul.

• (1350)

[English]

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to the cInéMAGINE Society of Alberta, its partners and its volunteers on putting together an outstanding French film program and on raising the profile of Alberta's francophone community. I would also like to thank the organizers for their continued dedication and commitment towards the development of French cinematographic arts in Alberta.

[Translation]

Thank you for showcasing the French language and culture in Alberta these past 10 years.

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