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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRANCO-ALBERTAN COMMUNITY 2012

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

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[Translation]

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Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, on October 12 and 13, I had the great pleasure of attending the 2012 edition of Rond Point, the annual meeting of the Franco-Albertan community organized by the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta. More than 450 people attended this annual gathering of Franco-Albertans, which was held in Edmonton, and they had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops on various issues of interest to them, such as access to services in French, francophone immigration to Alberta and citizen engagement.

The workshops were designed to inform participants and provide them with tools, and they also fostered discussion about a vision for the future of the Franco-Albertan community. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the booths of exhibitors who were promoting goods and services available in French and to attend performances by francophone artists.

Rond Point came to an end on October 13 with the awards gala that every year recognizes the outstanding contribution of Franco-Albertans to their community.

At this event, I had the great pleasure and privilege of awarding the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to 20 outstanding members of Alberta's francophone community. The recipients were nominated by a committee created by the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta. They come from various parts of Alberta and were recognized for their exemplary contributions to their respective fields. I extend my sincere congratulations to them for this well-deserved honour.

• (1420)

They are Linda Arsenault from Peace River, David Fréchette from St. Albert, Mireille Cloutier from Lethbridge, Oumar Lamana from Airdrie, Reed Gauthier from Plamondon, Herman Poulin and Marie-Claire Brousseau from St. Paul, Yvonne Hébert and Marguerite Sigur from Calgary, and Pierre Bergeron, Jean-Louis Dentinger, Sister Silvia Landry, France LeVasseur-Ouimet, Frank McMahon, Luketa M'Pindou, Dolorèse Nolette, Rhéal Poirier, Sister Thérèse Potvin, Ronald Tremblay and Eugène Trottier from Edmonton.

I would like to thank them for promoting the French language and culture in Alberta.
