



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

---

1st SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 148 • NUMBER 161

---

## LE PARLEMENT JEUNESSE DE L'ALBERTA

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

[Translation]

### LE PARLEMENT JEUNESSE DE L'ALBERTA

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, last weekend I had the great pleasure of being involved in the 22nd edition of the Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta.

As Lieutenant-Governor, I had the honour of reading the Throne Speech, signing the bills that were passed and sharing my experience as a parliamentarian with young leaders from Alberta's francophone community.

The Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta is a mock parliament organized every year by Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta. It helps youth who are 16 to 25 years old learn about the parliamentary system while practising the art of debate and public speaking. On the weekend, almost 80 young Albertans sat in the MLAs' seats in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

• (1350)

They had to defend their point of view in the language of Molière and vote for or against bills that were drafted and introduced by young members of the youth parliament cabinet.

During the 22nd parliament, participants had the opportunity to debate four bills on the following topics: facilitating organ donation, legalizing assisted suicide, lowering the voting age and minimizing the impact of video games on young people.

Approximately 20 young people also had the chance to take part in the event by playing the roles of lobbyists who had to represent the interests of fictitious lobby groups or journalists who had to publish a daily newspaper covering the parliament's activities.

The Parlement jeunesse encourages young people to become interested and engaged in politics and helps them develop leadership skills at the same time. It also serves as a forum for discussion for young francophones and francophiles, giving them the opportunity to discuss issues that matter to them. I would like to thank Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta for organizing this exciting and rewarding event.

I also wish to congratulate all the participants in the 22nd session of the Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta on their commitment and the quality of their debates. I was very impressed by their enthusiasm and their interest in participating in this exercise of democracy and discussing the issues and challenges facing our society.

---