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MR. CAMILLE BÉRUBÉ
L'Ordre des francophones d'Amérique Award

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

THE SENATE

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[Translation]

MR. CAMILLE BÉRUBÉ

L'ORDRE DES FRANCOPHONES D'AMÉRIQUE AWARD

Hon. Claudette Tardif: On September 26, the Conseil supérieur de la langue française awarded the Ordre des francophones d'Amérique to Mr. Camille Bérubé, mayor of the Town of Beaumont in Alberta. His important contribution and outstanding commitment to the Francophonie are recognized at the municipal, provincial and national level.

When Mr. Bérubé was the manager of the Caisse populaire de Beaumont, he ensured that his credit union could provide services in French. In addition to serving with distinction in the co-operative sector, Mr. Bérubé served his community as a municipal councillor and then as mayor of Beaumont.

As a result of his leadership, initiatives and vision as a francophone, the Town of Beaumont has been designated a

bilingual municipality and is part of the network of bilingual municipalities headed by the Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta. The Mayor of Beaumont is confident that bilingualism will allow his town to diversify its economy and attract bilingual entrepreneurs and workers.

Mr. Bérubé really cares about the development of his town and his francophone heritage. In practical terms, bilingualism is an integral part of his town's strategic plan. Mr. Bérubé believes that promoting his town's francophone heritage by talking with residents, implementing economic development initiatives and supporting immersion programs leads to more visibility and demonstrates the advantages of bilingualism. According to the 2011 census Beaumont has the seventh fastest growing population in Canada.

Congratulations to Mr. Bérubé, ambassador for Alberta's francophones, whose ability to bring people together and to collaborate with others are being recognized across the country with this well-deserved honour. His solid expertise and success stories help promote the Francophonie.