



DEBATES OF THE SENATE

2nd SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 149 • NUMBER 18

LA FÉDÉRATION DES CONSEILS SCOLAIRES FRANCOPHONES DE L'ALBERTA

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

[Translation]

LA FÉDÉRATION DES CONSEILS SCOLAIRES FRANCOPHONES DE L'ALBERTA

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, on November 17, I had the pleasure of attending the annual general meeting of the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta. The Fédération is made up of four francophone school boards: the FrancoSud board, the Centre-Est board, the Centre-Nord board and the Nord-Ouest No. 1 board.

The Fédération represents 34 francophone schools throughout Alberta. Those schools are attended by 6,500 students. The work of the Fédération is widely recognized throughout the province, and it has become a key player in developing French-language education in Alberta.

Allow me, honourable senators, to go back to the not-so-distant past. I became involved as a parent and educator at the very start of French-language education in Alberta, in the 1980s. Backed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a few small groups of

determined parents stood up for our rights and worked on setting up francophone schools in the province. The first francophone schools opened their doors in 1984. They were the Maurice Lavallée school in Edmonton and the Marguerite Bourgeois school in Calgary.

The fight for the right to manage these schools continued and, in 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that parents had the right to manage their educational institutions. As a result of these battles and the courage and perseverance of many people who believed in asserting our rights, the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta was established 20 years ago.

Today, we have a well-managed education system that is the pride of all the francophones in Alberta. Over the years, the Fédération has constantly made adjustments to meet the growing need for French-language education in the province.

I pay tribute to the Fédération and everyone involved for caring about the quality of French-language education in Alberta and for working hard to assert our rights and to provide quality French-language education for our young people.
