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The Honourable Gerald J. Comeau, P.C.

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

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THE HONOURABLE GERALD J. COMEAU, P.C.

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, I am pleased to speak today in tribute to Senator Gerald J. Comeau.

My dear colleague, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your long and productive parliamentary career. You were elected to the House of Commons in 1984 and appointed to the Senate on May 30, 1990. During that time, you earned a reputation for being passionately devoted to serving our country.

Our parliamentary institutions are better because of your tremendous contribution and your generosity. The values you worked so hard to impart strengthened democracy in our society.

To borrow a maritime analogy, you are like a lighthouse. Just as lighthouses enable ships to avoid reefs, so your experience, knowledge and wisdom have guided us.

You were the Deputy Leader of the Government from 2006 to 2011. As Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I met with you daily for over four years. I used to joke that I saw Senator Comeau more often every week than I did my husband. New to the

position in 2007, I witnessed a senator who was passionate about politics, proud to be a parliamentarian, involved in and loyal to his party and deeply dedicated to the Senate itself, a senator who expressed his ideas on the floor of the Senate earnestly and with conviction. As a rookie, I learned from a skilful and clever politician and I had to be at the top of my game when attempting to persuade him during our negotiations as deputy leaders.

Senator, I know that I learned a lot from you.

Senator Comeau is proud of his Acadian heritage and of the Francophonie. We share an interest in promoting francophone communities across Canada. Senator, we may not always have agreed on how to move our ideas forward, but we have always worked respectfully with each other. Here in the Senate, in the Official Languages Committee and in the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association, I have observed and appreciated your staunch commitment to the French fact. Your commitment to the Francophonie is undeniable.

Senator, you should be proud of everything you have accomplished. I wish you a joyful and well-deserved retirement during which you can spend hours renovating and restoring your seaside home and gardening. I hope you get to spend a lot of quality time with your charming wife, Aurore. Happy retirement, dear colleague.
