



# NEWS RELEASE

The Honourable Senator Claudette Tardif, Ph.D.

## **Senator Claudette Tardif attends ceremonies marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day**

Ouistreham and Cintheaux, France – On June 6 and 7, Senator Claudette Tardif had the honour of attending ceremonies commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day as the Chair of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association.

On June 6, at the invitation of the President of the French Republic, François Hollande, Senator Tardif attended the official international ceremony commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy Landings during the Second World War. The ceremony was attended by about 20 heads of State and government as well as nearly 1,800 veterans who were there to relive that historic day. On June 7, Senator Tardif joined a number of Canadian veterans and dignitaries at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in Cintheaux, France, to pay tribute to the Canadian soldiers who were laid to rest there.

“I was honoured to attend these ceremonies with Canadian veterans,” said Senator Tardif. “It was moving to hear them share their memories and personal stories.”

On June 7, Senator Tardif had the honour of meeting Paul Maisonneuve, a Franco-Albertan veteran of D-Day originally from the Falher area. Mr. Maisonneuve was deployed overseas with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. After he was transferred in 1943 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division, he worked as a decoder and code breaker before once again being transferred to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division in the lead-up to D-Day. On June 4, 2014, the Government of France decorated Mr. Maisonneuve with the prestigious Legion of Honour for his role during the Second World War.

Senator Tardif also had the opportunity to speak with Ernest Côté, a veteran originally from Edmonton. Mr. Côté served in the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment as a platoon commander (lieutenant). In June 1944, he was in charge of logistics for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division, close to 20,000 volunteers who took part in the Normandy Landings. In England, he helped prepare the top secret invasion plans. It turned out that Ernest Côté is a descendant of Jean-Léon Côté, one of the pioneers of the Franco-Albertan community and former Alberta senator. While she was Dean of the Faculté Saint-Jean, Senator Tardif established the Jean-



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Léon-Côté Scholarship, which is awarded each year to a first year student who has attended a francophone minority secondary school.

“We must always remember the sacrifices made by our veterans and the debt we owe them,” said Senator Tardif. “I salute these women and men who fought under the Canadian flag. Their determination and strength deserve our admiration. We will always be thankful for their service.”

For more information:

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