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The Honourable Andrée Champagne, P.C.

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

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THE HONOURABLE ANDRÉE CHAMPAGNE, P.C.

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, it is my pleasure to join my colleague in paying tribute to the Honourable Andrée Champagne today.

Senator Champagne, before you retire from public life, I would like to thank you for your contribution to public debate and our parliamentary institutions.

Twice elected — in 1984 and 1988 — you served your country as the Member of Parliament for Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot, and you have continued to serve Canada as a senator since your appointment to the Senate by Prime Minister Paul Martin in 2005.

• (1410)

You were the head of the Canadian Branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) for more than seven years and have served as the President of the APF since 2013. You did important work in carrying out your responsibility to promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights in the broader francophone community, representing 49 members. I

congratulate you, Senator Champagne, for your contribution and for representing Canada so well.

Throughout your parliamentary career, you were a stalwart advocate for the French language and cultural diversity. You were awarded the Ordre de la Pléiade for your determined commitment to have the Francophonie take its rightful place in today's world, and you have been a spokesperson that Canada can be proud of.

I had the privilege of working with you for almost eight years on the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, where I saw your commitment and attachment to the French fact in Canada. As the Deputy Chair of the committee since 2006, you successfully carried out your role of advancing the linguistic duality of our country. As a francophone from Alberta, I am touched by your interest in different issues and your attention to French-language minority communities.

With your considerable experience in and knowledge of the cultural realm, you paid a great deal of attention to support for the arts and culture, which should be part of a coherent and effective strategy for all communities across the country.

Allow me, honourable senator, to wish you good health and much happiness with your family as you embark on this new stage of your life. Farewell, senator.