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L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE DE L'ALBERTA

NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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[Translation]

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Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, I would like to acknowledge the 90th anniversary of the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, which is better known in Alberta by its acronym ACFA. Founded in 1926, this provincial umbrella association is the official representative of Alberta's francophone community. With its 13 regional associations, it promotes the interests and development of Alberta's francophone community in a number of areas such as education, arts, culture, the economy and immigration. The association also advances the linguistic rights of all francophones in Alberta and plays an active role in promoting both of Canada's official languages.

This anniversary was celebrated with great fanfare at the annual meeting of the Franco-Albertan community held on October 14 and 15. The meeting was well attended by many Franco-Albertans and distinguished guests who travelled to be part of the celebrations.

I want to pay tribute to the pioneers who laid the foundation of our community as it stands today, a modern, dynamic, and

well-rooted community. Alberta's francophone and francophile community, to which my family and I are proud to belong, is over 240,000 strong.

This community has survived and prospered thanks to the tremendous work of countless visionaries and volunteers whose tenacity, perseverance, and commitment have shone through over the years. There have been more than 30 presidents at the head of ACFA since its founding. All of them made successful contributions to the association and their achievements did not go unnoticed.

In fact, on September 28, ACFA received the Prix du 3-juillet-1608, a prize that commemorates the founding of Quebec City by Samuel de Champlain and marks his historic significance to North American francophones. The prize, awarded by the Conseil supérieur de la langue française, honours a resilient, energetic and dynamic organization in North America that provides or provided exceptional services to a French-speaking community and the North American Francophonie as a whole. The ACFA is eminently deserving of this honour.

Congratulations to an exceptional organization and to all of the people who have been a part of it throughout its 90-year history. The Franco-Albertan community owes you all so much.
