



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## TRIBUTES

The Honourable Tommy Banks

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

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#### THE HONOURABLE TOMMY BANKS

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, it is indeed an honour and a privilege to speak today to pay tribute to our dear colleague Senator Tommy Banks. Let me begin by saying what a great pleasure and honour it has been for me to represent Alberta in this chamber with such a distinguished, eloquent and knowledgeable colleague, someone who undertook his work in the Senate with independence, determination and integrity and who always stayed true to his principles.

Many of Senator Banks' important contributions to the Senate have already been mentioned and are well documented: Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources for many years; long-time member of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence; author of the important Statutes Repeal Act; and his thoughtful work in other committees on questions that have helped shape policies in many areas, from urban to national security issues.

Since his appointment to the Senate in 2000, Senator Banks has drawn on his passion for music and his incredible wealth of experience in this domain to become an important advocate for the significant role that the arts and cultural industries play in our

society. This again reflects his commitment and dedication to making Canada a better place.

What is perhaps harder to document but has made him a source of inspiration in the Senate is the integrity and independent spirit with which he has tackled issues during his parliamentary career. I have come to admire and respect Senator Banks, like so many of you, not only for his illustrious career prior to his appointment to the Senate, or for his tremendous work ethic, or for his great talent and wisdom, but also for truly embodying the spirit of this chamber as the place for sober second thought as well as independence of thought and action. These values and qualities that have guided Senator Banks' actions throughout his time in the Senate have made this chamber a much better place and have greatly contributed to advancing the public interest.

Senator Banks' contribution is now part of this institution's history for us and for future generations to study and reflect upon.

Dear Tommy, you are a wonderful person full of life and energy, a unifying force and a true gentleman. We will dearly miss the passion and the wisdom you have brought to this institution. Please accept my best wishes for happiness and health to you and Ida as well as for a life of new personal and artistic endeavours so that we continue to hear and be moved by your great talent.

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