



# Press Release

The Honourable Claudette Tardif, Ph.D., Senator

*For immediate release*

## SENATOR CLAUDETTE TARDIF SUPPORTS BILL S-220

OTTAWA, November 4, 2010 – Senator Claudette Tardif spoke out today in favour of Bill S-220, An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (communications with and services to the public).

Introduced by the Franco-Manitoban Senator, the Honourable Maria Chaput, this bill is intended to keep pace with the new demographic and sociolinguistic context of official-language minority communities. Part IV of the *Official Languages Act* has not been updated since 1988 and it is essential that the government make amendments to the Act to reflect current realities.

“Official-language minority communities have the fundamental right to communicate with and receive services from federal institutions. The calculation method stipulated in the Regulations for this purpose must take account of the growing number of individuals who know one of the official languages, and the specific character and institutional vitality of official language minority communities,” stressed Senator Tardif.

I fully support my colleague, the Honourable Maria Chaput, in stating that Bill S-220 is vitally important to Francophone and Acadian minority communities. They are threatened by assimilating pressures, are an essential part of our collective identity and must therefore be protected and strengthened.

This is another opportunity for the government to demonstrate strong leadership and its commitment to Canada’s linguistic duality. It must move beyond its laissez-faire policies of the past four years in regards to the legitimate demands of official-language minority communities.

-30-

For further information please contact:

Sylvie Boulanger, Office of the Hon. Claudette Tardif  
613.943.3650  
Toll-free: 1.800.267.7362  
[www.claudettetardif.ca](http://www.claudettetardif.ca)