



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## **FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **MINORITY LANGUAGE CHILD CARE**

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

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[*Translation*]

### FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### MINORITY LANGUAGE CHILD CARE

**Hon. Claudette Tardif:** Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Last Monday we learned that the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development plans to invest \$7.5 billion over 11 years in child care. We are told that this involves a historic agreement that will lay the groundwork for a national child care network. However, during the announcement, there was absolutely no mention of the desperate need for French-language child care in Canada's francophone minority communities. Those gaps have already been highlighted in a report from the Commissioner of Official Languages in 2016 as well as the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages that was just adopted in this chamber.

Leader, is Minister Duclos planning any specific measures to ensure that official language minority communities are not overlooked in his national early learning and childcare framework?

[*English*]

**Hon. Peter Harder (Government Representative in the Senate):** I thank the senator for the question. The minister responsible is very much preoccupied with appropriate funding for official language communities and minority communities. I will inquire with respect to this specific announcement. I don't have the details and would be happy to report back.

[*Translation*]

**Senator Tardif:** Thank you, leader. When you are inquiring with the minister, could you also make sure that, in its negotiations with the provinces, the federal government insist that language provisions be included to bring in targeted measures to guarantee progress for our communities?

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