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MODERNIZATION OF ACT

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, June 15, 2017

THE SENATE

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*[Translation]***OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

MODERNIZATION OF ACT

Hon. Claudette Tardif: My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. In his 2016-17 annual report, the Commissioner of Official Languages made only one recommendation. As the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act approaches, the Commissioner of Official Languages recommended that the Prime Minister, the President of the Treasury Board, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada assess the relevance of updating the act, with a view to establishing a clear position in 2019. Leader, does the government intend to adopt and implement that recommendation?

Hon. Peter Harder (Government Representative in the Senate): Yes.

Senator Tardif: I might ask the Leader to elaborate a little on his affirmative answer. Could you give us some more information?

I would also like to ask you for an update on the planned review of the Official Languages Regulations with regard to communications with and services to the public, announced by Minister Brison in November 2016.

[English]

Senator Harder: I appreciate the interest in the matter and it's broadly shared by other senators. I will leave it to the ministers to make those announcements. My understanding is that those announcements are being planned and the commitment has been made and articulated.
