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TRIBUTES

The Late Honourable Pierre Claude Nolin—
Speaker of the Senate

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

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THE LATE HONOURABLE PIERRE CLAUDE NOLIN—
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, I rise to pay tribute to the honourable Pierre Claude Nolin, whose death has deeply saddened us all.

Senator Nolin was a remarkable parliamentarian, a man of principle who demonstrated dedication, the courage of his convictions, integrity and outstanding compassion throughout his career.

Despite his failing health, he was determined to carry out his important duties as Speaker and to make changes to the institution of the Senate in order to modernize it and help it get through these difficult times.

From the time he was appointed to the Senate in 1993, Senator Nolin enriched our parliamentary institutions through his unwavering commitment and his values of fairness and justice, which he conveyed so well.

I am grateful for his leadership and his enthusiasm in promoting the Senate to society and for his desire to strengthen the democracy of our country by reflecting on the role of the Senate and its partisanship. As he said so well, “You can be blinded by too much partisanship.” I hope that Senator Nolin’s

efforts and expectations with respect to giving our institution new life will come to fruition.

I was touched by his attention to and understanding of the issues and challenges facing francophone minority communities. He was a proud Quebecer and a proud Canadian with a sincere attachment to linguistic duality and the Francophonie in all its diversity.

As chair of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association, I appreciated the importance that Senator Nolin placed on diplomatic relations between Canada and France. Senator Nolin was a faithful member of the Association for many years and we are very appreciative of that. The Speaker was scheduled to go to France in May to attend a symposium on the Great War organized by our colleague, Senator Joyal.

Senator Nolin’s term as Speaker of the Senate was far too short. However, we will not forget the energy he poured into suggesting changes to our institution. He will be greatly missed by everyone in this place, but we will all cherish the inspiration he provided.

• (1510)

It was an honour for me to serve in this chamber with Senator Nolin for more than 10 years, and I will always have fond memories of and great affection for this wonderful man and great parliamentarian.

I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, Camille, to his children, Simon, Louis and Virginie, to his grandchildren and to all of his family members.