



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## **IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP**

### **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT—FRANCOPHONE MINORITY COMMUNITIES**

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

## THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

### IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP

#### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT—FRANCOPHONE MINORITY COMMUNITIES

**Hon. Claudette Tardif:** Honourable senators, we know that the federal government's goal is to ensure that, by 2023, French-speaking newcomers represent at least 4.4 per cent of all immigrants who settle outside Quebec. Unfortunately, the interim Commissioner of Official Languages told us on May 12, 2017, that the federal government did not take into account the impact of resettling Syrian refugees in francophone minority communities. In her opinion, the department never tried to find out the needs of francophone minority communities at any point in the process, and she gave many examples of proposals submitted by francophone settlement agencies that were rejected.

Leader, doesn't this situation call into question how serious the government is about meeting its own targets for francophone immigration outside Quebec?

[*English*]

**Hon. Peter Harder (Government Representative in the Senate):** I thank the honourable senator for her question. This is an important dimension of the immigration plan of the Government of Canada. I haven't read the testimony of the interim commissioner. I will do so, and also raise the matter with the Minister of Immigration to seek a response to put in the context of his plan and commitment the observations of the interim commissioner.

[*Translation*]

**Senator Tardif:** What does the government plan to do to meet its own targets for francophone immigration outside Quebec?

[*English*]

**Senator Harder:** Again, I will raise that with the minister and respond appropriately.

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