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LA SOCIÉTÉ SANTÉ EN FRANÇAIS

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

LA SOCIÉTÉ SANTÉ EN FRANÇAIS

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, on October 26, representatives from all of the Société Santé en français networks and its partners met with many MPs and senators at a reception on Parliament Hill. I would like to thank all of the senators and MPs who came out in large numbers to show their support for French language health care in francophone minority communities.

Over the course of the week, members of Société Santé en français attended their general meeting to discuss the great progress that has been made over the past year. The organization's president, Dr. Aurel Schofield, from New Brunswick, was reappointed for a third two-year term.

Société Santé en français has become an important pillar for people living in francophone minority communities when it comes to access to quality health care in French throughout their lives,

whether it be primary health care, home care or long-term care. What is more, the organization is laying a strong foundation for French-language training in health care.

Since it was created in 2002, Société Santé en français, along with its 16 provincial, territorial and regional networks and its partners, has made significant progress in improving the health care services offered to thousands of francophones and Acadians living in minority communities across the country. Its leadership has produced significant, tangible results.

Minority francophone and Acadian communities care deeply about access to health care services in their language. Many studies have shown that language and cultural barriers impede access to health care services and may interfere with accurate diagnosis or compromise an individual's ability to follow a course of treatment. That is why it is important to serve francophone patients in minority communities in French, just as it is important to service anglophone patients in Quebec in English.

I would like to congratulate everyone who tirelessly contributes to the success of Société Santé en français.
