



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## TRIBUTE TO THE HONOURABLE ROSE-MARIE LOSIER-COOL

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

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[Translation]

### TRIBUTES

#### THE HONOURABLE ROSE-MARIE LOSIER-COOL

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, it is with some emotion that I speak today to pay tribute to our dear colleague and friend, the Honourable Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, on the occasion of the end of her outstanding career in the Senate.

Senator Losier-Cool is a remarkable, great and proud Acadian woman who is caring and smart. She is a highly regarded colleague who deserves our respect and our deep gratitude. This great parliamentarian has a deep sense of fairness and humanity, and her accomplishments and innovative ideas have enriched our institution.

Senator Losier-Cool was appointed to the Senate by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien in 1995 and served as the very first female Government Whip from 2004 to 2006, and as Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate from 1999 to 2002 and from 2005 to 2010, with much diplomacy and diligence.

She sat on the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, the Standing Committee of Selection, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on Human Rights.

Senator Losier-Cool is a deeply committed woman who courageously defended the causes that are dear to her heart, such as advancing education in French, eliminating poverty in our country, developing bilingualism and achieving better representation of women in all spheres of our society.

I am especially touched, Rose-Marie, by your generous contribution to the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages. You have been a member of the committee since you were appointed to the Senate 17 years ago. As a Franco-Albertan, I sincerely thank you for your invaluable contribution, your conviction and your strong commitment to advancing the language rights of official language minority communities.

Dear Rose-Marie, your career in the Senate is coming to an end. The scope of your actions and your involvement in the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, among other organizations, have contributed greatly to raising the profile of the Senate, not only here in Canada, but elsewhere in the world. You continue to inspire us all. Through your contribution to our democratic institutions you are leaving a remarkable legacy for generations to come.

Dear Rose-Marie, I wish you much happiness and good health in this next phase of your life and many wonderful years shared with your loved ones.

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