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UNE TRADITION ET UN DROIT, LE SÉNAT ET LA REPRÉSENTATION DE LA FRANCOPHONIE CANADIENNE

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

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THE SENATE

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[Translation]

***UNE TRADITION ET UN DROIT, LE SÉNAT ET LA
REPRÉSENTATION DE LA FRANCOPHONIE
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Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, on April 4, I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the latest book by professors Linda Cardinal and Sébastien Grammond on the University of Ottawa campus.

These two distinguished individuals are University of Ottawa professors and researchers. Ms. Cardinal is with the School of Political Studies and Mr. Grammond with the Faculty of Law. Both are known for their work on official languages, indigenous and francophone minority rights, and constitutional policies in Canada and Quebec.

Their new book is *Une tradition et un droit: le Sénat et la représentation de la francophonie canadienne*. The book gives an excellent overview of the key role that francophone and Acadian

communities and senators from those minority groups have played in shaping our Constitution, in formulating official language legislation and, ultimately, in the evolution of our country.

The book also delves into a constitutional convention that has been in place since Confederation: appointing francophone senators from francophone communities outside Quebec. It also substantiates the Senate's two fundamental roles: representing the interests of minorities and the regions.

Honourable senators, I recommend that you read this important book if the opportunity presents itself; indeed, it fills a major gap and sheds new light on a hitherto unknown part of our parliamentary history, which is nonetheless useful in helping us to better understand this institution that we senators proudly represent and are seeking to modernize.

Congratulations to the research professors and authors, Linda Cardinal and Sébastien Grammond, for this important reference book.
