

Press Release

For immediate release
October 21, 2005

The Honourable Claudette Tardif proposes that the Senate study the effects of relocating federal institutions on the language of work

OTTAWA, October 21, 2005 – The Honourable Claudette Tardif, Senator for Alberta, moved a motion in the Senate yesterday proposing that the Senate’s Standing Committee on Official Languages study the effects of relocating federal institutions’ head offices from bilingual to unilingual regions on employees’ capacity to work in the official language of their choice.

In her motion, Senator Tardif also urges the Committee to study whether there are measures that the government can take to ensure that any future re-localizations do not adversely affect the application of the *Official Languages Act*, particularly Part V, which pertains to federal employees’ right to work in the official language of their choice.

This initiative follows debate surrounding the move of the Canadian Tourism Commission from Ottawa to Vancouver.

“The Canadian Tourism Commission’s move to Vancouver will improve its operational performance and increase the federal government’s presence in Western Canada. It is an excellent initiative, which I fully support.”

However, the Senator feels that

“we must ensure that there are no adverse effects on the right of relocated federal employees to work in the official language of their choice”.

The Senator wishes to facilitate all possible future relocations of federal institutions and ensure that federal employees’ rights with regard to language of work are preserved.

For information :

Chantal Terrien, Research Assistant
(613) 947-3608