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The Honourable Lorna Milne

Speech by:

The Honourable Vivienne Poy

Thursday, December 10, 2009

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THE HONOURABLE LORNA MILNE

Hon. Vivienne Poy: Lorna, I will always remember your welcoming smile when I was first appointed to the Senate in 1998. We were sitting on the other side of the chamber then and we were both sitting near the entrance. I must have looked tired one day when you said that I should go out with you for a cup of tea. Until then, I did not even know that we could have tea in the reading room.

Coming from a non-political background as I did, I watched Lorna and learned that patience, passion and persistence are the most important qualities of a successful senator.

As mentioned earlier, Lorna enjoys genealogical research and was the honorary patron of the Ontario Genealogical Society. In 1998, she began her mission to have post-1901 census data released so it would be available for genealogical research across Canada. I still remember not only her speeches, but also the tons of petitions she presented in the Senate.

Seven years later, in 2005, she celebrated as Bill S-18 finally allowed for the release of family records. As she details in her book, *Deeply Rooted: The Story of One Senator's Battle to*

Preserve the Historic Census Results, Lorna overcame the entrenched bureaucratic resistance and persuaded the minister to make it a government bill. Finally, genealogists received the access they needed. Bill S-18 allows disclosure of census records from 1911 to 2001 after 92 years, and asks respondents' consent for the release of future census records.

This spring I was honoured to be asked to take over as honorary patron of the Ontario Genealogical Society from my esteemed colleague.

Lorna, we have always sat close to each other until recently. We can always depend on you to share a joke, and once in while, we also see pictures of your and Ross's lovely grandchildren.

I learned that the entire Milne family will take the train from Ottawa at the end of the week so the grandchildren will experience their first train trip. That is what I would call a thoughtful grandmother.

Lorna, I look forward to working with you on future projects. While you will no longer be a colleague, you will always be a friend. Many of us will miss you in this chamber, especially during Question Period.
