



**Honourable Diane Bellemare, Ph. D.**  
Quebec Senator (Alma)  
Senate of Canada

**Bill for the creation of an Essential Skills Learning Week (Bill S-254) to  
promote essential skills and lifelong learning:  
Second Reading in the Senate**

Ottawa, October 24, 2018 – Yesterday in the Senate Chamber, Senator Diane Bellemare introduced her first bill, entitled *An Act to establish Promotion of Essential Skills Learning Week* (Bill S-254).

Bill S-254 designates the week starting on the first Monday of October of each year as “Promotion of Essential Skills Learning Week.” This bill aims to underline the urgency and the need for all Canadians to improve their skills to better meet the demands of today and tomorrow’s economy. It seeks to spark a social dialogue between different actors. It is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda.

“As we enter what the World Economic Forum calls the fourth industrial revolution, the development of essential skills is an urgent priority for Canada and all countries of the world. For anyone seeking to achieve lifelong professional success in today’s labour market, developing essential skills is key.” said Senator Bellemare.

The main goal of S-254 is to generate the necessary collective leadership from the provinces and Canada to put in place the tools and a national strategy that will allow each person to develop essential skills. Senator Bellemare has asked Senators to send the bill quickly to committee for study.

*Diane Bellemare, Ph.D. Economics, McGill University and M.A (economics) from the University of Western Ontario, also full professor at the University of Quebec at Montreal, a consultant to governments and unions, Chief Executive Officer of the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d’œuvre and Chair of the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail, Vice-President of the Conseil du Patronat du Québec and has published several books and articles on issues related to the labour market and employment. She was appointed to the Senate in September 2012, and has served as a non-affiliated senator since 2016. She is now the Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate.*

-30-

**For information or interview requests:**

Julie Labelle-Morissette

Manager, Communications and administration, Office of the Honourable Senator Diane Bellemare  
[diane.bellemare@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:diane.bellemare@sen.parl.gc.ca) or 613-943-1555