



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## **HONOURABLE ANDRÉ PRATTE**

Congratulations on the Publication of  
Legacy: How French Canadians  
shaped North America

Statement by:

The Honourable Diane Bellemare

Thursday, November 24, 2016

## THE SENATE

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[Translation]

### HONOURABLE ANDRÉ PRATTE

#### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PUBLICATION OF LEGACY: HOW FRENCH CANADIANS SHAPED NORTH AMERICA

**Hon. Diane Bellemare (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate):** Honourable senators, during the last break week, I was in my kitchen having a coffee, listening to Radio-Canada, when I was surprised to hear our colleague, Senator Pratte, talking about his new book. I went to my local bookstore and got a copy of his latest publication.

This 400-page book gives an account of 13 French Canadians who shaped North American history before the Quiet Revolution. Senator André Pratt is the co-editor, in collaboration with Jonathan Kay. The book includes contributions from many well-known authors, including Lucien Bouchard, Margaret Atwood, one of our former colleagues, Senator Roméo Dallaire, Chrystine Brouillet, former Quebec premier Jean Charest, Ken Dryden and others.

[English]

This unique biographical book, written by many of English and French Canada's best-known writers and thinkers, tells the story of the extraordinary legacy of the French contribution to our very way of life.

Great news: It is possible to buy the English version, and the English version is called *Legacy: How French Canadians Shaped North America*. The book includes chapters on Jacques Plante, Gabrielle Roy and many other prominent francophones.

[Translation]

*Legacy* allows us to draw lessons from these pioneers that can help us face today's challenges. It also reminds us of our roots. Think about the immense contribution Jehane Benoît made to gastronomy in Quebec with her *Encyclopédie de la cuisine*, which was full of recipes I remember from my childhood. Think about Thérèse Casgrain, who was appointed to the Senate in 1970, where she sat as an independent and fought for the rights of women in Quebec and across Canada.

As Senator Pratte says in his preface, and I quote:

Having discovered the life stories of these important but relatively unsung French Canadians, our readers may want to delve deeper into the history of their ancestors. In doing so, they will realize that the French Canadians have always been a great people. Not a greater people than any other, but not a lesser one either. A people that, given its small size and the trying circumstances it has faced, has made a remarkable contribution to the building of North America.

[English]

Senator Pratte has written many books on politics, history and the media. I also invite you to read his biography on Wilfrid Laurier, part of the Extraordinary Canadians series.

[Translation]

Please accept my warmest congratulations, Senator Pratte.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

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