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MR. ROBERT LEPAGE, C.C., O.Q.

Glenn Gould Prize Recipient

Statement by:

The Honourable Diane Bellemare

Thursday, April 10, 2014

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[Translation]

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GLENN GOULD PRIZE RECIPIENT

Hon. Diane Bellemare: Honourable senators, Robert Lepage, a great Canadian artist from Quebec who has gained international acclaim for his multidisciplinary productions, has won the prestigious Glenn Gould Prize for his life's work. This prize, created by the Glenn Gould Foundation, was presented on March 31 by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston. This is one of many national and international awards that this Québécois artist has received.

Robert Lepage has had a rich artistic career, and it impossible to do him justice by summarizing it in a few short minutes. Robert Lepage is a playwright, director, actor and producer. In 1984, he received the award for best Canadian production for *Circulations*. In 1985, he received international recognition for *The Dragons' Trilogy*.

While working as the artistic director of the National Arts Centre's French-language theatre program in Ottawa he continued to pursue his artistic work, producing such plays as *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which he directed at the Royal National Theatre in London.

In 1994, Lepage founded Ex Machina, a multidisciplinary production company, which drew him into the world of film. Known for his theatrical productions that employ new technologies on stage, Robert Lepage has also produced operatic works in various countries, including at the

Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he presented pieces by Wagner. He has also collaborated with Cirque du Soleil, and during the 400th anniversary celebrations in Quebec City in 2008, many of you would have seen, the world's largest architectural projection, titled *The Image Mill*.

Robert Lepage uses multidisciplinary techniques to take the spectator to modern, extraordinary and universal worlds that deal with the human condition. He is an icon in the artistic community and an inspiration for Canada's francophone artists. His work is proof that French culture is very vibrant in North America.

His works, and I am certain that he will be pleased that I am pointing this out, are living proof that art and culture nourish the soul, but also the body. His productions create jobs and generate income for actors; authors; set designers; all manner of technicians such as electricians, sound mixers and lighting technicians; opera singers; puppeteers; computer graphics technicians; camera operators; makeup artists; costumers; film producers; arts managers; carpenters; set painters; architects and so many more.

Honourable senators, let's salute the genius of Robert Lepage, who is proof that art enriches our lives and also creates many jobs. In fact, did you know that, according to Statistics Canada, in 2013 there were 650,000 jobs in cultural industries in Canada? Culture is an important sector, especially when we consider that, in the same year, there were 445,000 jobs in the agriculture, hunting, mining, quarrying and oil and gas sectors combined.

Thank you for your attention.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!
