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SERBIA

STATEHOOD DAY

Statement by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

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Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, I rise today to pay tribute to the Canadians of Serbian descent on the anniversary of the Statehood Day of Serbia, the country of their origins. It is a day that plays an important role in Serbian heritage, as it commemorates the Serbian struggle for statehood, sovereignty, integrity and democracy. Today, modern Serbia is 214 years old.

A sizeable Serbian community lives in Canada today, and it is now successfully integrated into the Canadian way of life, giving a considerable contribution to the establishment of Canadian society and at the same time contributing to the development of the relationships between our two countries.

Today, our countries enjoy a stable and productive relationship based on strong people-to-people relations and extensive social ties, shared commitment to international peace and stability and a healthy economic relationship based on investment.

Serbia, Canada's great ally during both world wars, is a dynamic, democratic society firmly engaged on its path to a full European Union membership and undivided commitment to democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Last year, our two countries marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ottawa and Belgrade during the visit of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Ivica Dacic to Ottawa.

Today, I invite all honourable senators to join me in congratulating Serbia for its Statehood Day.
