



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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## TRUE SPORT

Statement by:

The Honourable Nancy Greene Raine

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

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### TRUE SPORT

**Hon. Nancy Greene Raine:** Honourable senators, I too would like to wish Speaker Kinsella the very best going forward. Yesterday he shared something with me I thought you should know and would enjoy. Speaker Kinsella is actually retiring early. Having campaigned against mandatory retirement all his life, he's refusing to retire as mandated. No, he's leaving one day early.

Honourable senators, as I'm sure you know, this weekend is the one hundred and second edition of the Grey Cup and this year the Calgary Stampeders will take on the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for one of Canada's most coveted national trophies. I'm sorry that the BC Lions won't be playing, but I know football fans will enjoy Vancouver's hospitality.

This weekend there are two other events, the TELUS Vanier Cup and the fifth annual RBC Sports Day in Canada. On Friday, sports fans can have fun and show their loyalty on Jersey Day in Canada.

Sport is something that divides and unites us. It taps into some of the most basic human needs and emotions: the joy of mastery, the thrill of competition and, yes, the agony of defeat. Playing with your teammates on the field, court or rink helps to build character and community. Sport lets children and youth take part in healthy activity, to learn and experience the good things that come when sport is done right: teamwork, setting goals, working hard and making friends for life.

We all know, however, that there can be a negative side to sport, when winning at all costs can lead to corruption of the rules and plain and simple cheating.

Honourable senators, I am proud that Canada has been at the forefront in preventing the use of performance-enhancing drugs and of promoting ethics in sport. Some years ago, through the work of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, a movement emerged to promote the good values of sports, to ensure that sports experiences are positive and nurturing and to keep the smiles on the faces of kids. Their True Sport slogan says it all: "Winning Hearts and Minds for Good Sport."

Seven principles were articulated forming the core values of True Sport: go for it, play fair, respect others, keep it fun, stay healthy, include everyone and give back. Simple, powerful messages that I hope will be celebrated across Canada not only on Saturday but wherever and whenever Canadians come together to play games for fun or in serious competition.

The True Sport Foundation is made up of members including sports organizations, municipalities and individuals, all of whom commit to their core values. True Sport emphasizes the power of principle-driven sport to contribute to physical well-being, but also to produce benefits for young people and their communities through the training of ethical values among young people.

Honourable senators, if we respect True Sport values, we will all be better off. Thank you.

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