

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF ARGENTINA'S
INDEPENDENCE**

**OTTAWA
MAY 25, 2010**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Bothamley,
Your Worship, Mayor O'Brien,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to participate in this celebration of the bicentennial of Argentina's National Day and its first national government. We are gathered here in Ottawa's City Hall to also mark the proclamation of today as Argentina Day by the City of Ottawa, which is the sister city of Buenos Aires.

A notable occasion such as this is an opportunity to reflect upon the successes of the past and to look forward to the future.

No country is spared challenges, but the mettle of a people is gauged by the determination with which it moves forward. On that count, Argentina truly is an inspiration. Over the last 200 years the Argentine people have worked hard to build their nation, and today Argentina is a solid democracy, a vocal defender of human rights and an important regional leader.

Canada is proud to have been a partner of Argentina throughout much of this time, both before and after establishing formal diplomatic relations in 1940.

Our relationship has flourished. It is a relationship based on a shared commitment to multilateralism and on common values, notable among them human rights, democracy and a commitment to non-proliferation.

We cooperate closely on many regional and global issues, including the environment, pandemics, counter-terrorism and cultural diversity. Both our countries are committed to peacekeeping. Canadian and Argentine military officers participate together in training.

At the hemispheric level, both our countries responded generously to the tragedy in Haiti, and are now committed to helping with the reconstruction.

Canada and Argentina are also good business partners. Many Canadian companies have seen the opportunities which abound in Argentina in sectors such as energy, mining and communications.

Our good relations extend to people-to-people contacts. One example is the excellent Canadian Studies network which is in place in Argentina, centered on the Argentine Association of Canadian Studies and its 500 members. Canadians in the thousands visit Argentina each year. Cultural exchanges are frequent. The Argentine community in Canada is vibrant.

In closing, it is both an honour and a pleasure to be with you today as we celebrate Argentina's National Day and the Bicentennial. We congratulate Argentina and its people on a proud history. Canada and Ottawa look forward to a continued partnership with Argentina in the years to come, based on the enduring friendship between our peoples and our cities.