

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF AN ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

**OTTAWA
MAY 27, 2010**

Mr. Speaker,
Prime Minister,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Your Excellency Felipe Calderón Hinojosa,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all those assembled here today, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to you, Mr. President, for addressing our Parliament. Your thoughtful comments reflect and underscore the strong friendship between our two countries.

This friendship is bolstered by a continuing dialogue and is enhanced by regular exchanges between Canada and Mexico. Your visit today is one example and it has been my pleasure to visit your country as well. It was a singular honour to be present at your inauguration in 2006 and last year I led a delegation to Mexico to discuss details of the forthcoming Interparliamentary meetings. While there, I had the opportunity to visit La Heroica Escuela Naval Militar (Heroic Military Navy School) in Veracruz and to pay respect to fallen Mexican heroes in the Hall of Honour.

One of the many dynamic aspects of the bilateral relationship between our two countries is parliamentary cooperation. The very successful interparliamentary meetings permit Canadian and Mexican parliamentarians to engage in discussion on a range of issues concerning both of our countries.

The XVIth Inter-Parliamentary Meeting was held in Canada this past November, and it was my honour to welcome the Mexican delegation not only to Ottawa, but also to my home province of New Brunswick. We shared perspectives

on regional security, trade, investment and the economy, the environment and clean energy, and international cooperation.

Canada and Mexico also cooperate through multilateral parliamentary fora such as the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). Canadian delegates are looking forward to the discussions at the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas to be held in Mexico in November of this year.

Your Excellency, the ties that have been forged between our nations are many and varied, and are strengthened through regular dialogue. Thank you once again for expressing your country's deep commitment to our bilateral relations and to our shared values. On behalf of all present today, I would like to congratulate you and wish you an enjoyable and productive visit to Canada.

Thank you, merci and gracias.