

**NOTES FOR A TOAST TO BE GIVEN BY
SPEAKER KINSELLA AT A LUNCHEON
HOSTED BY SEVERAL CANADIAN COMPANIES**

My Dear Hosts,
Your Worships,
Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank our hosts for the hospitality shown to us at this luncheon.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet with you and find out more about your activities here in Albania. I am very impressed with the range of sectors in which Canadians and Canadian companies are involved. You are represented in the banking and financial sector (for instance, Raffeisen Bank), in pharmaceuticals (with Albapharm), in information technology (with RIM and Infsoft Systems), in consulting engineering (with AECOM), and in real estate development (with Mane Group). I note that Canadians are also present in the resource industry, particularly in oil and gas exploration and in mining of copper, zinc, nickel, gold and silver.

These activities and the level of interest of Canadian companies to explore such opportunities in this country, I believe, is a testament to the wealth and potential Albania has to offer. Moreover, they are carried out to the mutual benefit of Albanians and these Canadian companies.

For instance, Bankers Petroleum, a Calgary-based Canadian oil and gas exploration and production company, is Albania's largest foreign investor. Currently, it is involved in a project aimed at developing an on-shore oil deposit in south central Albania, the largest known deposit in continental Europe. It has started production in the Patos-Marinza oil field, which has an impressive 4.7 billion barrels of original oil in place, and is currently producing 6,800 barrels of oil per day. The Kucova oil field is showing smaller volumes, but equally important results for the future economic development of Albania.

Other successes are evident with the partnership established between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Tirex Resources Ltd., a Canadian company based in Vancouver, British Columbia. This partnership will allow the exploration of deposits of a variety of metals, including copper, zinc, gold and silver, in the Mirdita district.

The benefits to Albania of such investments and economic activities are indeed numerous and include opportunities for technology and knowledge transfers, which inevitably promote economic development and high levels of returns, and again, mutual benefit.

I would like to take this opportunity, therefore, to acknowledge the commitment these companies have shown to Albania and wish all of them continued success in their endeavours here and in Canada.

Please join me in raising a toast to our hosts.