

## **SPEAKING NOTES**

**The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella  
Speaker of the Senate**

**On the occasion of the Reception  
in Honour of the Restoration of the Ascension Window  
St. James Parish Church, Barbados**

**June 9, 2010**

Your Excellency High Commissioner Greaves,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to welcome you this evening to the dining room of the Speaker of the Senate. For those of you who have had the privilege to view the art in the Senate Chamber, you will notice it memorializes the sacrifices by Canadians during the First World War. We are gathered here this evening to remember as well the sacrifices of Barbadian soldiers which are memorialized in the Ascension Window at the St. James Parish Church in Barbados.

It is said that Canada became a nation on the battlefields of the First World War. More than national bonds were formed on those fields. We bonded with not only our neighbours from across Canada, but with our neighbours from allied countries. In the case of our hemispheric neighbours, Barbados, recruits to the war effort were placed in the Canada Corps and served alongside our soldiers. After the war ended in the armistice of November 11<sup>th</sup>, these bonds were deepened when many Barbadians who served with us settled here in Canada and the Government of Canada memorialized the contribution to the war effort of the

people of Barbados with the gift of the Ascension Window at the St. James Parish Church.

While monuments are meant to be timeless statements of history to honour one generation's sacrifices, eventually even monuments fall prey to the ravages of time. In need of repair, Canada came forward to preserve this gift to the people of Barbados and the West Indies. The repair work was done by the Edward J. Bowes, the proprietor of fine Canadian stained glass company in my hometown of Fredericton, Shades of Light. The Department of Veterans Affairs Canada, under the leadership of its then Minister, the Honourable Greg Thompson, authorized the funding for the work.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tireless advocacy on the part of this project by my colleague in the Senate, the Honourable Anne C. Cools. I would also like to thank Mr. Bradley Hall, the Secretary-General of the Canadian Agency of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for providing the agency for these funds to reach Barbados.

Thank you