

Speaking Notes
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

HMCS Fredericton Bike-for-Wishes

Officer's Square, Fredericton, NB
August 15, 2014

The Honourable Keith Ashfield,
Members of the Legislative Assembly,
Your Worship Mayor Woodside and city councillors,
Lieutenant Craig Cook,
Crew of HMCS Fredericton,
Crew of HMCS Moncton,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here for the sixth consecutive year to thank our naval personnel for taking their bicycles on the road in this annual fund-raiser for the Children's Wish Foundation. The weather may not have been as cooperative yesterday and today, but you can be sure the outcome will be sunny smiles. Bike for Wishes has been a great success in all respects each year.

New Brunswickers take special pride in the ships named after our cities, notably HMCS Fredericton and HMCS Moncton. These ships and their valiant crews have defended Canada's interests at home and abroad, helping to keep our nation one of the safest in the world. HMCS Fredericton recently participated in a training exercise in Halifax with 1700 other sailors from our NATO allies and both have been key components of Canada's blue water force. Commander Jeffrey Murray unfortunately could not be with us today as I understand he is at sea in the midst of training of his own.

Our Royal Canadian Navy has played a key role in our history throughout its existence. Canadian military personnel in all branches, particularly those in our navy, are accomplished individuals trained to the highest standards. They serve our nation with pride, with honour and with distinction.

That service takes many forms and frequently exceeds normal expectations. We have seen it here this week and today in New Brunswick where members of the crew have spent the last few days on bicycles in the name of a wonderful cause. The Children's Wish Foundation helps make the lives of terminally ill children a little easier and the money raised makes a tremendous difference.

On behalf of all present, I would like to thank the captains and crews of HMCS Fredericton and HMCS Moncton for their service to the nation and in particular for their direct contribution to charity through the Bike for Wishes program. They make a difference every day. Please join me in welcoming them to the finish line and in congratulating them, one and all.

Thank you.