

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF  
THE HONOURABLE JOHN BRYDEN**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

Senator Bryden,  
Honourable Senators,  
Friends and Family,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are gathered here this afternoon to celebrate the Senate career of the Honourable John Bryden, slightly shortened by his decision to spend more time with his wife and family. Notable anniversaries tend to focus the mind on what is truly important, and I note that the Brydens celebrated their silver wedding anniversary this past year. It was also almost exactly 15 years ago, on November 23, 1994, that he was appointed to the Senate on the recommendation of the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien.

His yeoman work as a political organizer may have had something to do with that recommendation but, as is usual in this place, he arrived with a solid record of achievement in other fields. The combination of a background in law and public service, including being deputy minister of justice in New Brunswick for a time, made him a natural choice to sit on the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs as well as on the Joint Committee on Scrutiny of Regulations. There were other committees that benefited from his expertise over the years as well, including Fisheries and Oceans, the Rules Committee and the Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention his persistence and ultimate success in strengthening the penalties of the Criminal Code dealing with cruelty to animals. He began in February 2005 in the first session of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament. It died on the Order Paper with the call of an election, but he reintroduced it in the first session of the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, managing to move it quite a bit further. Prorogation caught it this time, but the second session of the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament finally saw it gain Royal Assent on April 17, 2008. This is considered a relatively speedy passage in Parliamentary terms. Many attempts have been made over the years to change the cruelty to animals provisions in one way or another, and indeed there is actually another proposal currently in the works, but no one else has been able to find sufficient agreement between the two Chambers to actually change the law.

It is noteworthy that almost every Member of Parliament and almost every Senator sees and advocates possible improvements to the laws of Canada, but it is still relatively rare for bills which are not introduced by a Minister of the Crown to actually make it through the process and receive Royal Assent. No matter the party or the issue, we all applaud every success because we all understand just how difficult it is to achieve.

Another committee which particularly benefited from Senator Bryden's skills was the Special Committee on the Cape Breton Development Corporation. He was first a member and was the Chair of the Committee when it issued its final report in December of 1997. Many of you will recall that it was a difficult time for the corporation. Labour-management relations were strained, to put it mildly, and there were serious doubts about the viability of the coal mining operations. The final report of the committee was sensitive to these concerns, a tribute to the work of the members of the committee and its Chair.

There is no doubt that the work of Parliamentarians from both Chambers is hard on family life. I expect that Senator Bryden is pleased that he will now have more time to spend relaxing with family and friends. I am confident they are all equally pleased at the prospect, even as I know we are disappointed to see him leave us so soon. His presence will be missed in the Senate and in its committees.

With that, I would ask Senator Bryden if he would like to say a few words.