

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

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS
9TH ANNUAL DOUGLAS C. FRITH FUNDRAISING DINNER**

**CONVENTION CENTRE, TRILLIUM BALLROOM, OTTAWA
OCTOBER 23, 2013**

Speaker Scheer,
Mr. Cox,
Mr. Duguay,
Honourable Parliamentarians, past and present,
Distinguished guests,
Friends and family:

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you here this evening where we are gathered for the 9th Annual Douglas C. Frith Fundraising Dinner. The Trillium Ballroom here in the Convention Centre is a new venue this year, possibly made necessary by the exceptional turnout.

Since 2005 this event has helped raise funds for the programs of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarian's Educational Foundation which, among other things, endeavours to assist young Canadians in becoming better citizens and to increase their participation in the electoral process through innovative projects. Since 2009, these dinners have been named in honour of our late friend and colleague Douglas C. Frith who, as a former President of the Association, was instrumental in the creation of this initiative.

All of us present in this room are intimately aware of the importance of empowering citizens, particularly our youth, and encouraging them to participate actively in our electoral system. They are our future leaders.

Our special guest speaker this evening, Mr. Pat Cox, was born and raised in Ireland, where he attended Trinity College Dublin. A brief period as a journalist was followed by an extended stint as a broadcaster on a very popular current affairs program.

This may have inspired him to successfully seek elected office, where he started as founding Secretary General of the Progressive Democrats in Ireland and a Member of Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament) in the early nineties. Mr. Cox was first elected to the European Parliament in 1989, leading the Liberal Democrat group there from 1998 to 2002. He completed his time in the European Parliament as President until 2004.

Numbered among his accomplishments was an active and successful campaign to enlarge the European Union. More recently, he has been President of the European Movement International.

In light of the recent announcement regarding the conclusion of a Canada – EU trade agreement, it is safe to say that we all look forward to hearing from him on “The Economy, the Euro and EU – Canada Free Trade”.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament, to the podium.