

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OF THE CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**237-C CENTRE BLOCK
JUNE 9, 2014**

Speaker Scheer,
Honourable Parliamentarians, past and present,
Distinguished guests,
Friends and family:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to today's award ceremony. I would like to offer a particularly warm welcome to those who are returning to Parliament after being away for some time.

It has been said that parliamentarians may leave the Hill, but the Hill never quite leaves them. When you departed, you took with you a wealth of knowledge and experience in representative government. In your subsequent endeavours, you have generously shared or passed down to successors much of what you learned.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians is dedicated to retaining and reinvesting this hard-won wisdom and deep insight of former legislators, helping to improve democratic processes at home and abroad.

Since its foundation in 1987, this non-partisan and voluntary Association has launched numerous successful programs in pursuing this worthy and noble goal. The Global Democracy Initiative deploys highly skilled and experienced teams of former legislators and election monitors to help guide other nations toward stable and productive democracy. Through projects such as the Youth Democracy

Network and Parliament to Campus, the Association is educating the next generation to understand the operation of both governments and legislative assemblies. Our youth are being encouraged to participate and to use their imagination and energy to make our future better.

Each year, the Association presents a Distinguished Service Award to a former parliamentarian who has made an outstanding contribution to Canada and to our democratic institutions. This is the 16th annual award. Recipients have been impressive and inspiring individuals.

John Matheson was the first one to be honoured in this way. He played a pivotal role in developing both our Maple Leaf Flag and the Order of Canada. Subsequent recipients have done important work involving the status of women, aboriginal rights, medicine, efforts against landmines, African development issues, human rights, and courageous service as part of our military.

These accomplished men and women epitomize the two words contained in the title: “Distinguished” and “Service”. They have one and all been distinguished individuals, but they also have in common a spirit of giving and service to others.

Each of you continues in this tradition in your work and involvement as a member of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. We thank you deeply and sincerely for your public service to date. May you all continue to serve the public in one way or another for many years to come – regardless of where you are, how you choose to do it, and no matter the colour of the carpet beneath your feet.

Thank you.