

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE SENATE TABLE  
CALENDAR

SENATE CHAMBER  
MAY 29, 2013

Honourable Senators,

We are about to present the new Senate Table calendar.

With your agreement Honourable Senators, it would be appropriate to have this event recorded by our stenographic reporters so that it may be appended to the day's Debates. Is it agreed? Also, I seek your consent to have photographers on the floor to provide a photographic record. Is it agreed?

The impetus for this splendid project was the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was made aware of this initiative and we received a Message from Her Majesty the Queen which reads as follows:

“I am pleased that a splendid pyramid-shaped calendar bearing my cipher has been commissioned to adorn the Table in the Senate Chamber where I have had the pleasure to read the Speech from the Throne on two separate occasions.

“Surmounted by St Edward's Crown, this calendar commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of my reign as Queen of Canada and the sixtieth anniversary of my Coronation. Its prominent location in the Senate Chamber will serve as a visible testament to the important function and role of the Crown in the Parliament of Canada.

Signed: “Elizabeth R.”

The prominence given to the crown in this calendar, as Her Majesty herself recognized, underscores the role and presence of the Crown in the Senate and in our parliamentary system.

Since it is a calendar, it should come as no surprise that its completion and presentation is on time, although just under the wire. Sunday, June 2, marks sixty years since the Queen's coronation, the last day that can be properly linked to the Diamond Jubilee.

The creation of the calendar as a Diamond Jubilee project was promoted by our Art Advisory Working Group over a year ago and approved by the Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. A silversmith was identified and a basic design was approved. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Senator Fortin-Duplessis and Senator Moore as well as the generosity of many senators, the Table Officers and other senior personnel, past and present, money was raised to cover the costs for this commission. Senator Joyal took on the responsibility for monitoring its progress, from start to finish. Both Senator Joyal and Senator Fortin-Duplessis will provide the details of these efforts in a few moments.

First, it is time to finally see the result of all this work, and view the new Senate Diamond Jubilee Table calendar. I invite the Leader of the Government, the Honourable Marjory LeBreton, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable James Cowan, to step forward to unveil the new calendar.

*[The calendar is unveiled]*

I now recognize the Honourable Senator Joyal and invite him to say a few words about the calendar.

*[Senator Joyal speaks]*

I now recognize the Honourable Senator Fortin-Duplessis to speak on behalf of the Art Advisory Working Group.

*[Senator Fortin-Duplessis speaks]*

Honourable Senators, this concludes the ceremony of the formal presentation of the Diamond Jubilee calendar in the Senate. Please join me in the Speaker's Chambers for a small reception where you will be able to examine the calendar more closely, admire its remarkable craftsmanship and also meet some of the individuals who were responsible for its fabrication.