

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF AN ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT
BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DAVID CAMERON**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

Mr. Speaker,

Prime Minister Cameron,

Prime Minister Harper,

Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of all here present today, I wish to thank you Prime Minister Cameron for your thoughtful and generous address to this joint session of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada.

As you have said, Prime Minister, Canada and the United Kingdom share a long history of friendship and solidarity. Prime Minister, your current visit to our Parliament reaffirms the special relation existent between our two countries.

While the Thames River locates the Parliament of Westminster, the juncture of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers locate the Parliament of Canada. For a long time, these rivers carried timber to the ships bound for Great Britain. Those earliest commercial relations would blossom over the centuries. Today, the United Kingdom is Canada's most important trading partner in the European Union. It is also our second largest source of, and destination for, foreign direct investment in the world.

The exchange of goods across the Atlantic also extends to human capital. Every year, thousands of Canadian students travel to the United Kingdom to study at your many prestigious universities. Likewise, each year Canadian schools have the pleasure of welcoming eager young minds from the United Kingdom. As with our economic exchanges, the flow of human capital between our countries strengthens and enriches the ties between our peoples.

The common values that our countries promote are also apparent on the international stage. Working together in the Commonwealth, NATO, and at the United Nations, our countries stand up for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. These values have guided our participation in the Contact Group on Libya, and, of course, these are the values that our countries continue to promote in Afghanistan. Canadians have the deepest respect and admiration for the efforts and the sacrifices that the brave men and women in your armed forces have made in pursuit of these principles.

On a lighter note, Prime Minister Cameron, you and Prime Minister Harper have a unique commonality in that you have each acquired new feline assistants in your respective official residences. We understand that the furry occupant of 10 Downing Street is called “Larry”. For our part, Canadians recently came up with the name “Stanley” for the furry resident at 24 Sussex Drive. Perhaps “Larry” and “Stanley” are even related!

Prime Minister, it has been an honour to have heard your words today. On behalf of all those gathered here, and to those who have been watching at home, allow me to thank you for your presence in our Parliament and to wish you fruitful and successful discussions during your stay.