Speaking Notes
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

On the occasion of a reception for
H.E. Philippe Zeller, Ambassador of France to Canada

Speaker's Chambers
October 17, 2012

Your Excellency Ambassador Zeller,
Senator Tardif,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished guests,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Parliament and to the chambers of the Speaker of the Senate, where we are gathered to welcome His Excellency Philippe Zeller, France's Ambassador to Canada. He presented his credentials to our Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, on September 19, 2011, slightly more than a year ago.

Before coming to Canada, Your Excellency served as France's Ambassador to Hungary from 2004 to 2007, and to the Republic of Indonesia from 2008 to 2011. During that same time, you were also France's representative to the Democratic Republic of East Timor and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Your honours include being an Officer of the Legion of Honour and of the National Order of Merit of France.

Our Governor General expressed confidence that Ambassador Zeller's time in Canada would add another exciting chapter to an already brilliant career. He was quite right in that Ambassador Zeller has been a dynamic force in our

communities. He is interested in all aspects of life in Canada and does a great deal to enrich the relationship between our two countries.

It is a pleasure and an honour to have him with us today.

The members of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association were very interested in the recent election in France and are anxious to work with their French counterparts on many issues of common interest.

I now call on His Excellency, Ambassador Philippe Zeller, to share his perspective with us, perhaps including a few comments on the recent political changes in France following last spring's presidential and legislative elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Ambassador Zeller.