

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION CELEBRATING
THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**EMBASSY OF CHINA, OTTAWA
26 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Your Excellency Ambassador Zhang,

Speaker Scheer (to be confirmed),

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

It is a pleasure to join you this evening at this gathering to celebrate the 64th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Ambassador Zhang, on behalf of my colleagues in the Canadian Senate, allow me to offer our sincere condolences at the loss of at least 25 people following the powerful typhoon that struck Guangdong province earlier this week. In the wake of this natural disaster, know that Canadians are thinking of our Chinese friends. All of Canada mourned and stood alongside China in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Sichuan province in April of this year. We still do.

Ambassador, it is in difficult times such as this that true friends and allies come to the fore. Thank you for all that you do to facilitate good relations between our two countries. Prior to your appointment to Canada, you served as Ambassador to Australia as well as the Fiji Islands. We are fortunate to have someone with your distinguished experience at the helm of Canada–China relations.

Le Canada a été le premier pays occidental à établir une ambassade à Beijing, en 1971. En 2011, j'ai eu la chance de diriger une délégation parlementaire en Chine pour souligner le 40^e anniversaire de l'ouverture de cette mission diplomatique.

Our visit to your country, with its rich history and proud culture, was a unique experience. The People's Republic of China has a well-earned reputation for hospitality, which we experienced at every turn. Our visit provided an opportunity to meet with numerous public officials, who offered insights into political and economic developments taking place in China. It was an honour to be part of the long history of exchanges between our countries, and to continue in the open dialogue that has become a fixture of our partnership.

Recently, the Canada-China relationship, based on mutual respect and increasing collaboration, has been elevated by high-level visits in both directions, including visits to China by Prime Minister Harper in December 2009 and February 2012, and a visit to Canada by President Hu Jintao in June 2010.

There was also the highly anticipated arrival earlier this year of a pair of Chinese national treasures: Er Shun and Da Mao. These two giant pandas will not only captivate zoo-goers in both Toronto and Calgary for years to come, but will also serve as a reminder of the peace and friendship that underlines our ever-deepening relationship.

En effet, nos liens de longue date portent leurs fruits dans des domaines aussi variés que le commerce, les sciences et la culture, ainsi que dans les universités et grâce à d'importants liens familiaux. En effet, quelque 1,3 million de Canadiens d'ascendance chinoise vivent au Canada, ce qui représente environ 4 % de notre population. Dans les années 1990, les immigrants au Canada provenaient

principalement de la Chine, de sorte que le chinois est maintenant la troisième langue la plus parlée au Canada.

China has a strong sense of community and sees great strength in local cultures and traditions. These immigrants brought their sense of community to Canada, and have demonstrated leadership and political involvement. In 1957, Douglas Jung became the first Canadian of Chinese origin to be elected to the House of Commons, and in 1998 the Honourable Vivienne Poy became the first to be appointed to the Senate.

Evidence of our strong bilateral cooperation can be found at each of the federal, provincial, and municipal levels, where government departments have productive programs and agreements with their Chinese counterparts. One of our own national treasures – Banff National Park – entered into a twinning agreement with Huangshan National Forest Park in July of this year. The Ottawa Chinatown Royal Arch, which came to the city of Ottawa from the city of Beijing, is a magnificent commemoration of the special bond between our two capital and sister cities. My hometown of Saint John, New Brunswick, signed a city Friendship agreement with Shenzhen, Guangdong, in October 2005.

In closing, please join me in thanking Ambassador Zhang for this opportunity to reflect on the strong affinity we hold for one another's country and people and wish everyone a happy National Day. We look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in the course of our vibrant and productive relationship!

Gan-Bei! (pronounced: Ghan-Bay)