

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR  
THE CANADA – CHINA LEGISLATIVE ASSOCIATION  
(16<sup>TH</sup> BILATERAL)**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS  
OCTOBER 16, 2012**

Your Excellency Vice-Chairman Ma,  
Your Excellency Ambassador Zhang Junsai,  
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you here today. We are honoured that you have undertaken such a long journey to attend today's meetings, which speaks highly of your commitment to your country, and the people and communities that you represent. It also speaks highly of the growing strength of the ties between our two countries.

Vice-Chairman Ma, it was an honour to meet with you and your colleagues today, if only for a brief time. The opportunity to get better acquainted with you and the members of your delegation is one which I value.

There is a great geographical distance between our countries, but through meetings such as today's we find that the challenges are not that different. We benefit from each others' experiences and stories, and take away new perspectives.

Canadians are aware that the People's Republic of China is undertaking a greater role in international affairs. China's remarkable economic growth over the past years, its increased assistance, both monetarily and technically, to developing

nations and its presence on the world stage at the 2008 Olympic Games demonstrated to Canadians that China is an emerging power.

Canada and China already share very strong ties. Canada is home to over one million people of Chinese origin, with upwards of 30,000–40,000 new permanent residents each year.

In 1957, Douglas Jung became the first Canadian of Chinese origin to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons and in 1998, a former colleague, the Honourable Vivienne Poy, became the first Canadian of Chinese origin to be appointed to the Canadian Senate.

In addition to these personal ties, our countries have worked together in a number of international organizations. Both Canada and China are members of the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, and the United Nations. In addition, Canadian forces personnel have served alongside Chinese military and police personnel in a number of peacekeeping operations throughout the world.

This robust relationship is furthered strengthened through cooperation between our parliamentarians through diplomatic initiatives such as the Canada-China Legislative Association. Exchanges such as this allow for face to face meetings and, in a world where communication has been made easy, it's becoming more apparent that nothing can replace personal meetings for appreciating people and the concerns they share.

Finally, I understand that you will be attending a portion of the Senate's sitting this afternoon. I look forward to welcoming your delegation, officially, from the Speaker's chair, following Senators' Statements.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to once again thank the delegation from the National Peoples' Congress and Vice-Chairman Ma for taking the time to visit and meet with us. We look forward to the next time our paths cross.