

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

ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR A  
DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF CHINA

OTTAWA  
MAY 11, 2010

Speaker Milliken,  
Your Excellency Ambassador Lijun Lan,  
Vice-Chairman Lu Yongxiang,  
Honourable Senators and Members of Parliament,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our Parliament Buildings in the heart of Ottawa. We are most appreciative that Vice-Chairman Lu Yongxiang and the entire National Peoples' Congress delegation made the long journey here to visit us. Vice-Chairman Lu, it is a particular honour to meet you. Your extensive and decorated career in engineering and academia give you great insight into China's economic growth and technological development. During the course of your visit, there will no doubt be many opportunities to discuss these and other areas of mutual interest. It will also serve to further the warm relations between the Chinese and Canadian legislatures.

Our histories are different, our locations are distant and our futures have yet to be determined. Despite this, we share areas of mutual concern and an appreciation of each other's history, legislatures and systems of government. Through communication and planning, Canadian parliamentarians and representatives of the National Peoples' Congress can help ensure that both our countries enter bright futures together.

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 have demonstrated to Canadians that China is an emerging presence in the world.

Canada is also home to over one million people of Chinese origin, with some 30,000–40,000 new permanent residents each year. China has a strong sense of community and sees great strength in local cultures and traditions. These immigrants brought this sense of community to Canada, and have demonstrated a long history of community 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 my colleague the Honourable Vivienne Poy became the first to be appointed to the Senate.

In addition to these ties on a domestic level, our countries work together in a number of international forums. 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 further strengthened by cooperation between our parliamentarians through the Canada-China Legislative Association. Parliamentary exchanges allow for face to face meetings and, in a world where communication has been made easy, it has become apparent that nothing can replace personal meetings for truly appreciating people and the concerns they share.

On behalf of the Senate and Canadian Senators, I would like to thank the delegation from the National Peoples' Congress and Vice-Chairman Lu for taking the time to visit and meet with us. We hope you find your time in Canada interesting and productive, and we look forward to future exchanges.