

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF  
THE HONOURABLE ETHEL COCHRANE

SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS  
JUNE 19, 2012

Senator Cochrane,  
Honourable Senators,  
Friends and family,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our gathering this afternoon is one which celebrates the accomplishments and career of the Honourable Ethel Cochrane. A born Newfoundlander, she has served the people of Newfoundland and Labrador with remarkable skill and devotion. She is not just a forward thinker, but a forward planner. Anyone needing evidence of this should note that the actual date of her mandatory retirement from the Senate doesn't arrive until September 23, yet here we are in the middle of June. Ethel is a great believer in getting things done sooner rather than later.

At the time of her appointment to the Senate in 1986, the first woman to represent Newfoundland and Labrador in this Chamber, she was in the midst of a very successful career as an educator. The opportunity to teach a thing or two to people outside her home province may have been something she just couldn't pass up, but I suspect that she also knew that the Senate was a place in which her talents could blossom further.

Education and literacy have been subjects close to her heart throughout her time in Parliament and her service on the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology has been exemplary. Her province has also been well-represented through her contributions to other committees, notably the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, the Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, and the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

Senator Cochrane has made important contributions to the debate in the Senate Chamber as well. Listing them all might keep us past the midnight adjournment, so I will just mention her commentary on the National Early Learning and Child Care Program and her speech on Women in the Mining Industry by way of example.

The Newfoundland and Labrador perspective which she brought to every discussion is one from which we have all benefited and there is no doubt that the Senate has been well served by her presence, as has Newfoundland and Labrador and our entire nation.

Her impending departure from the Senate has a silver lining for her family, in that I am sure they will be delighted to have her closer at hand. The return of the prodigal daughter will also be appreciated by the broader community.

I want to thank Senator Cochrane for her many contributions to the Senate and will close by inviting her to say a few words.