

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CPA CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR**

**OCTOBER 20, 2009  
OTTAWA**

Honourable Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure, as the Speaker of the Senate, to welcome members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to the National Capital Region and to the Senate. We are honoured to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Parliamentary Seminar.

The list of delegates attending this Seminar, in terms of global representation, is truly impressive. It is also impressive that so many have been able to attend despite busy parliamentary schedules. It is a tribute to the importance of seminars such as this, and you are all to be commended for fulfilling your commitment not only to the colleagues sitting beside you, but also to the scholarship of parliamentary values.

Large gatherings of distant friends, such as the one convened here today, are not a new occurrence in the Ottawa area. Today's city lies on what for millennia has been a vital trade route linking the Great Lakes and the Atlantic coast. Aboriginal travelers depended upon this ancient waterway as they journeyed great distances in birch-bark canoes in search of food and trade goods. Indeed the city's name, Ottawa, comes from the Algonquin word "Adawe" (pronounced AH – DAH – WAY) meaning "to trade."

Located at the confluence of three large rivers: the Ottawa, the Rideau and the Gatineau, this land was a favourite meeting spot for traders and explorers for thousands of years.

Victoria Island, located less than half a kilometre upstream from here, was used as a base from which to portage around the scenic Chaudière Falls. Many travellerstravelers, especially the Algonquin nation, used this island as a place to meet, to trade and to celebrate.

This tradition of arriving in Ottawa and using the occasion to meet, to trade and to celebrate while in the midst of a longer journey is obviously alive and well today. I would like to thank you all for taking the time in your busy Parliamentary schedules, or your “journeys” as it were, to stop here in Ottawa. Let us meet. Let us trade stories, experiences and ideas gained during our time apart. And let us celebrate our common bonds.

In closing, I would like to raise a toast and extend a warm welcome to all the delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, many of whom have travelled great distances to be here. On behalf of the Senate and in my own name, let me say that we are honoured by your presence. May your deliberations be productive and guided by wisdom, experience and good will.