

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION FOR THE COMMUNITY  
RADIO FUND OF CANADA**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS  
JUNE 11, 2014**

Senator Mockler,  
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Senate and to the Speaker's Chambers.

Canada has played a leading role in the history of radio from the very beginning. The first transatlantic radio message was sent from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in 1902, inaugurating the modern age of global communications.

Radio subsequently played an important role in Canadian history and still does today. It brings us all a little closer together. We share stories, conversations and diverse perspectives between our largest cities and most remote communities. Canadians are kept informed, engaged and connected with our culture, with our government and with each other.

Seven years ago, the three largest associations of community radio stations banded together to create the Community Radio Fund of Canada (CRFC). In 2007, the National Campus and Community Radio Association, the Alliance des radios communautaires du Canada, and the Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires de Quebec, combined to create this not-for-profit organization that funds non-commercial community and campus radio stations and projects.

The organisation's overarching goal is to help campus and community radio stations to serve their diverse communities in relevant, innovative and effective ways. Since its creation, the CRFC has distributed more than four million dollars to community radio programs for the implementation of 273 initiatives. Of the more than 170 licenced Canadian campus and community stations, 103 stations have received funding from the CRFC.

Through innovative programs such as "Radiometres", the CRFC has helped to fill Canadian communities, cars, campuses, offices and homes with voices that speak to both local interests and national culture. With initiatives such as Radio Talent Development Program and the Youth Internship Program, the CRFC has offered extensive mentorship, education and training for their volunteer broadcasters.

Canada is a large and increasingly diverse country with a growing family of languages beyond French and English. Community and campus radio is a powerful and important tool for encouraging minority communities and youth to join the wider cultural conversation, to do so in their own words and with their own stories, and to realize that their voices are welcome, respected and an important element of our success as a multicultural society. Organizations such as the CRFC merit recognition and support for their efforts to maintain and improve these lines of communication.

The work of the CRFC has been impressive, in no small part due to the leadership of Executive Director Jean Malavoy and his dedicated and creative team of volunteers. It is my sincere hope that the CRFC will continue to fulfil its important mandate and its promise as an important and growing contributor to our Canadian culture and communities in the years ahead.

Thank you.