

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION
TO LAUNCH CANADA CUISINE WEEK,
HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADOR OF CANADA
TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**BELLEVUE RESTAURANT, PRAGUE
OCTOBER, 2010**

Ambassador Raymond,
Your Excellency Chairman Sobotka,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to be here in the Czech Republic for this special event at the Bellevue Restaurant, which is renowned for its exquisite culinary art and for its magnificent views of the city of Prague. On behalf of the delegation, I would like to thank Ambassador Raymond for being our host.

Ambassador Raymond has been steadfast in her commitment to strengthening Canada's diplomatic relations. Since her appointment as Canada's Ambassador to the Czech Republic in June 2009, Mrs. Raymond has acted as a vital link between our two countries. Prior to that, she served as high commissioner to New Zealand and Sri Lanka and worked as vice-president of the Forum of Federations and Director General of the Canadian Foreign Service Institute.

She brings a wealth of international and diplomatic experience to her position and I am very pleased that we have this opportunity to share some time in her company and to discuss Canada–Czech Republic relations.

Tonight's reception marks the beginning of Canada Cuisine Week, a unique means to share Canadian cuisine and Canadian ingredients with Czech society. The culinary delights of Executive Chef Petr Bureš are the feature. The one thing which

seems to be missing from the menu is Canadian potatoes, a slight personal disappointment as I come from the province in Canada which is home to McCain potatoes, but I am confident that the excellence of everything we experience this evening will more than compensate for their absence.

Events such as this one strengthen not only cultural ties, but economic ones as well. Following this event, I expect our great Canadian products will make their way to your own tables.

In closing, I would like to thank Ambassador Raymond once again for her hospitality and our Czech hosts for their warm welcome.

Na zdraví (to your health)!