

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF
THE HONOURABLE ROMÉO DALLAIRE**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS
JUNE 16, 2014**

Senator Dallaire,
Honourable Senators,
Friends and Family,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered this afternoon in the historic chambers of the Speaker of the Senate to mark the departure from the Upper House of the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire. The quality of the service he provided in the Senate has been remarkable and has redounded to the great benefit of the Gulf region of Quebec and of Canada.

When he was appointed to the Senate on the advice of the Right Honourable Paul Martin in 2005, Senator Dallaire was already well-known to Canadians and to people around the world. His tenure as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1994, and particularly its impact on his personal well-being, has received a great deal of attention in the media and elsewhere, contributing to our understanding of the extraordinary difficulties which military personnel may face as a result of their service to our nation.

These influences have been reflected in Senator Dallaire's work in the Senate. The Senate committees which benefited from his presence further speaks to the passion he has – and responsibility he feels – for Canada and for humanity. There is little doubt that his greatest impact was during his tenure as Vice-Chair of

the Standing Committee on National Security and Defence and particularly as Chair of its Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs. As perhaps Canada's best-known veteran, his passionate advocacy for veterans' issues was well understood, particularly with regard to mental health, and his comments resonated in the Chamber, with members of the Armed Forces and with the Canadian public.

His desire to continue his work on post-traumatic stress disorder research is one of the reasons Senator Dallaire has chosen to leave this place. He will be lending his considerable experience to a year-long project at the University of Southern California.

In addition, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has asked him to visit conflict zones to put his expertise in humanitarian issues to work, particularly in relation to the problem of child soldiers. This is a difficult subject to which he has devoted considerable time and energy. Senator Dallaire will also continue to speak around the world on international causes and is in the process of authoring two more books.

It is difficult to adequately express our appreciation to Senator Dallaire's wife, Beth, and their children Willem, Catherine, and Guy, for sharing him with us for the past 9 years. From the first day of his Senate tenure to the last, he has maintained an intense schedule. Although they likely hope to spend more time with him following his departure from the Senate, it is clear that his passion and dedication are unlikely to include plans to slow down any time soon.

Long before he became a Senator, the Honourable Roméo Dallaire commanded widespread respect and admiration. This continued during his time in the Senate and there is no doubt that the future holds more of the same. Since he joined the Canadian military in 1964, Senator Dallaire has committed his life to his

country and to bettering the world. One can only applaud more than 50 years of public service.

Honourable Senators, friends and family, ladies and gentlemen, it is now time to hear from the man we are here to honour today. Please join me in welcoming to the podium Senator and Lieutenant-General, the Honourable Roméo Dallaire.