

**NOTES FOR A TOAST TO BE GIVEN BY
SPEAKER KINSELLA ON THE OCCASION OF
A DINNER HOSTED BY THE CLERK OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
19 FEBRUARY 2012**

Mr. Rogers,
High Commissioner Campbell,
Speaker Scheer,
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please join me in raising a glass in honour of our host, Mr. Robert Rogers, Clerk of the House of Commons and Chief Executive. Mr. Rogers, you have had an impressive career in Parliament and have served the House of Commons for over 35 years. Your long experience will be invaluable to us as we learn more about developments in Britain's Parliament.

In your current position, you provide advice to the Speaker of the House of Commons and Members of Parliament on matters of procedure and privilege. As Speaker of the Senate, Canada's upper chamber, I can say with certainty that matters of parliamentary privilege and procedure are just as important now as ever.

Over the last few years, our Canadian Senate and House of Commons have welcomed many new members. At the same time, new communications technologies are providing new opportunities and methods for connecting parliamentarians with the people they represent, but also with their colleagues and stakeholders in Canada and abroad. In this time of profound change, parliamentarians rely on non-partisan parliamentary officers such as yourself to

ensure that the long tradition of parliamentary standards and customs are upheld, while also adapting to a changing world.

This behind-the-scenes work is instrumental in the daily operations of our respective Parliaments. Although Canada has asserted its own identity, it retains much of the great legacy it inherited from Britain. Our parliamentary institutions are an obvious case in point.

When we meet with our counterparts from the United Kingdom Parliament, we begin with many common assumptions, which facilitate our discussions greatly. Over the years, of course, we have modified our Parliament to conform to Canadian reality, but it remains in many ways a faithful reflection of its British predecessor.

The clearest example of this is our shared sovereign and Head of State – Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. On 6 February, both Canada and the U.K. rejoiced in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. As the Diamond Jubilee commemorations continue throughout 2012, let us seize this opportunity to reflect on our history of partnership and establish new approaches for a deeper level of cooperation between our two countries and Parliaments.

Fortunately, Canadian and British parliamentarians have many forums through which they can meet and discuss matters of mutual concern. For example, in the Canadian Parliament, we have the Canada–United Kingdom Inter-Parliamentary Association, the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In addition, every year Canada and the U.K. participate in the G8 and G20 Speaker's Consultations. Taken together, these various meetings create a network

of important personal ties. As our institutions continue to evolve, it is crucial that we follow developments.

In conclusion, Mr. Rogers, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us and for providing this wonderful venue for tonight's event.

Cheers!