

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

ON THE OCCASION OF A DIPLOMATIC GATHERING

**ABOARD HMCS FREDERICTON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

Speaker Milliken,
Your Excellencies the Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Commodore Newton,
Crew members of HMCS Fredericton,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me begin by thanking all of you once again for joining this diplomatic gathering today, and I particularly want to thank Commodore Newton, Director General of Naval Personnel, for having us aboard HMCS Fredericton.

As we look around us, it is difficult not to be inspired by the men and women who are responsible for operating HMCS Fredericton, dubbed the “Stalker of the Seas,” likely due to their professionalism and selfless actions. HMCS Fredericton is considered to be one of the most advanced general-purpose frigates in the world.

It is a particular pleasure for me to be reunited with HMCS Fredericton. In October 2009, I was present to mark the departure of the ship and its crew before being deployed in Operation Ocean Shield. Now, following the safe return of the ship and its crew, I would like to congratulate everyone on a job well done. From coast to coast, maritime security is becoming increasingly significant to Canadians. With each visit aboard HMCS Fredericton, I am reassured that our Navy is ready to respond, and to protect our nation and its interests.

HMCS Fredericton was launched in 1993, and is officially named for the capital city of the Province of New Brunswick, my home city. On a personal note,

as a boy growing up in Saint John, New Brunswick, I developed a deep affinity for both the sea and the Navy. In 2008, I was fortunate enough to join those who serve the Canadian Forces as Honorary Navy Captains in the Navy Reserve.

All of those gathered here today promote good relations between countries. These relationships are built on solid foundations of tolerance and understanding, of appreciation for the validity of differing points of view and perspectives, and of compromise. This is also an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for those who come from other places in the world with the goal of enhancing cooperation between nations.

Aboard HMCS Fredericton we can see – from a sailor’s perspective – some similarities between the roles of sailor and diplomat: both are focused, at least in part, on defending national interests outside a nation’s borders. Moreover, both roles require profound discipline and are highly regarded by Canadian parliamentarians as instrumental in ensuring sound international alliances.

At a time when violent conflict and religious extremism regularly make headline news and threaten international stability, the words tolerance, understanding and compromise must be put into practice to quell irrational hate that can spread beyond borders. In this way, those of you here today play an integral role within the international community by furthering the cooperation among countries that stimulates peace and good will.

As Speaker of the Senate, I have had the honour of leading parliamentary delegations abroad and hosting incoming delegations from around the world. I have come to understand the importance of formal and informal mechanisms for parliamentary exchange as well as the value of regular dialogue with Canada’s friends. Whether discussing long-standing concerns, shared interests or emerging issues, by meeting with each other we are able to identify problems and discuss mutually beneficial solutions.

Today’s trip to visit HMCS Fredericton provided us with an opportunity to get to know one another a bit better and to continue the dialogue. On the lighter side, it also provided us an opportunity to see some of the incredible colours as

the trees begin to herald the approach of our autumn season. This is one of my favourite times of the year.

In closing, I want to thank the Captain and crew for the opportunity to tour the ship with members of the Diplomatic Corps and also thank all the members of the Diplomatic Corps for your unceasing efforts throughout the year.