

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION HOSTED BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY TO CELEBRATE
THE DAY OF GERMAN UNITY**

**RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR
3 OCTOBER 2013**

Eure Exzellenz Herr Botschafter Wnendt, (pronounce “Vnent”)

Minister Baird, (To be confirmed)

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

meine sehr geehrten Damen und Herren,

es ist mir ein Vergnügen heute Abend hier zusammen mit Ihnen den Tag der deutschen Einheit zu feiern und ein große Ehre, diese prestigeträchtige Auszeichnung verliehen zu bekommen.

My personal connection to Germany reaches back to my days as an international student. That has been reinforced in recent years by official visits with parliamentary delegations. The most recent was a year ago and included Hamburg, which is the third busiest port in Europe. Saint John in my home province of New Brunswick has Canada’s second busiest port by tonnage. We have many common interests. Our time in Germany was both interesting and useful.

Canadian–German relations have had a long and fruitful history. The Day of German Unity has a special significance for us all. No one will ever forget that eventful day of November 9th, 1989 which marked the end of the Berlin Wall. The

images of that day held us transfixed and have remained an iconic symbol of hope and of the best that the human spirit has to offer.

Man kann nur bestaunen wie schnell und effektiv die Wiedervereinigung bewerkstelligt wurde. Demokratie und Menschenrechte sind nun beherrschende Grundsätze für alle Deutschen. Deutschland ist heute ein globaler Spitzenreiter, eine stabile Demokratie und eine leistungsstarke Wirtschaftskraft. Deutschland ist ein Vorbild, an das wir uns ohne weiteres halten können, wenn wir die Weichen für unsere eigene Zukunft stellen.

Canadians have been the beneficiaries of the products of German culture, science and technological innovation. Canada is a big country and for many the preferred mode of transportation, at least for those who can afford it, remains the BMW and Mercedes. Considering myself a man of the people, it is my pleasure to drive a Volkswagen – *Das Auto*.

Les Allemands font partie de notre patrimoine depuis bien avant la Confédération. Ils sont venus directement d'Allemagne ainsi que d'autres établissements germanophones d'Europe centrale et d'Europe de l'Est. Avec leurs talents et leur détermination, ils ont contribué à bâtir le Canada d'aujourd'hui, et eux et leurs descendants sont devenus des figures marquantes dans les domaines des arts, des sports, des sciences, de l'industrie et de la politique au Canada.

Today our countries enjoy close and friendly ties. We cooperate actively in international fora and have strong economic and investment relations. An important driver of economic growth is research and development. Here again we have cooperated to our mutual benefit. Since 1971, researchers from our respective countries have collaborated in joint projects under the bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement. Under this program there are generally about 100 projects under way at any given time.

Our countries also cooperate in international organizations. We have both been long-time members of NATO and cooperate closely on defence and security issues. In addition, we are members of the UN, the Conference on Disarmament, OSCE, IAEA, G8, G20, OECD and WTO. Germany is also a permanent observer on the Arctic Council and its scientists regularly come to the Canadian Arctic to pursue scientific research.

What all of this tells us is that today, our relationship is strong and growing, marked by deep personal ties, shared interests and an appreciation for the importance of close cooperation across all policy areas.

Ich möchte nochmals meine tiefe Wertschätzung für diese prestigeträchtige Auszeichnung zeigen, und einen Toast zu fortwährenden, hervorragenden Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und Kanada erheben.

Danke und zum Wohl!