

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER HOSTED BY MR. IOANNIS  
MACHERIDIS, REGIONAL GOVERNOR  
OF THE SOUTH AEGEAN REGION**

**ISLAND OF RHODES, GREECE  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2012**

Your Excellency, Governor Macheridis,  
Honourable parliamentarians,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen:

“Kalispera” (Good evening)!

It is a pleasure for our Canadian delegation to be here, in the magnificent medieval town and island of Rhodes. I would like to thank Governor Macheridis for hosting this dinner. This is our second day in Greece and we have been genuinely impressed and touched by the warmth and generosity of the islanders.

Our visit to Greece began here on this beautiful island and has been marked by the enthusiasm and hard work of Rhodes’ political and religious representatives. These are people who are making a genuine difference and creating new opportunities that will contribute to the prosperity and wellbeing of their communities.

Walking through the streets of Old Town of Rhodes provides a sense both of the deep historical roots and of the vibrant city that surrounds us. Yesterday, it was my privilege to visit the Church of Saint John and the stunning Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Saint John, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. My home town, Saint John, in the Canadian province of New Brunswick, was also named after Saint John the Baptist, patron of the Knights of St John.

As our delegation continues its visit in Greece, we will meet with political and religious officials, as well as members of the Greek cultural society. These meetings help to enhance our understanding of matters of mutual interest and identify ways in which we can strengthen the ties between our two countries. Informal discussions with knowledgeable people in such pleasant and beautiful surroundings assist in building on a continuing dialogue. As relations between Greece and Canada develop, it is crucial that our decision-makers stay well-informed and connected with each other.

Our countries enjoy excellent bilateral and multilateral relations. The bond between Canada and Greece is rooted in a friendship marked by the establishment of our diplomatic relations 70 years ago. It is based on common values, mutual goals, and extensive cooperation. Our two countries also share education cooperation arrangements, allowing academic exchanges between universities in both countries. Greek and Canadian students develop a greater understanding of our respective countries through these programs and form important linkages for years to come.

In closing, I wish to thank Governor Macheridis again for being our host this evening. We appreciate the opportunity to share some time with all of you in these congenial surroundings.

“Stin iyia mas” (meaning “to our health”)