

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION CELEBRATING THE
AWARDING OF THE GREY CUP FOR THE 100TH TIME**

**SPEAKER'S QUARTERS, HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA
24 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Speaker,

Mr. Cohon,

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to join all of you today as we welcome Mr. Cohon, Commissioner of the Canadian Football League, to Parliament Hill together with the often and much celebrated Grey Cup. This year marks the 100th time that it will be awarded.

The Grey Cup has become a Canadian icon, one which is recognized from coast to coast to coast. Parliamentarians in both the Senate and the House of Commons today had an opportunity to see it in our respective chambers.

It was named after the original donor, the 4th Earl Grey and our 9th Governor General. He was keenly interested and involved in every aspect of Canadian life, but was particularly well known for his interest in arts and culture. Many would agree that Canadian football contains at least a measure of both.

From creating music and drama festivals through to helping to establish the National Arts Council, Lord Grey played a prominent role in advancing the arts. While he is best remembered now for the Grey Cup, an enduring symbol in itself,

this is a good occasion on which to recall that he was an accomplished individual with many achievements to his name. The Prime Minister of the Day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, said Lord Grey gave "his whole heart, his whole soul, and his whole life to Canada."

Throughout our history, those who have held the office of Governor General of Canada have had varied and wide ranging interests, and they have contributed significantly to our nation. A common feature is that all have had a passion for Canada.

This is a place where individuals with a strong commitment to the nation tend to congregate, and where people with passion are welcomed and celebrated. Mark Cohon is such a person. There is no doubt that he is devoted to ensuring that the sport of football continues to gain and hold a prominent place in the hearts and minds of Canadians. The Grey Cup will no doubt assist him in doing so.