

Speaking Notes

**The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate**

**On the occasion of the
Deployment of HMCS Fredericton**

October 25, 2009

Lieutenant-Governor Nicholas,
Minister Ashfield,
Rear Admiral Maddison,
Commander Waddell,
Crew members of HMCS Fredericton,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome everyone. I am pleased to see all of you here today, as we mark the departure of HMCS Fredericton and her crew and wish them well during their deployment.

This ship named after our city was commissioned 15 years ago. HMCS Fredericton is the second Canadian Navy ship to be honoured with the name of New Brunswick's capital, with the first, a corvette, having served valiantly during the Second World War.

Next year, our Navy will be celebrating 100 years of service in peace and war. While celebrating its proud history, we will also be looking to the future, to a balanced, effective force, one which will continue to assure our sovereignty at home and which will also be able to take independent action abroad.

Canadians recognize the increasing importance of maritime security. The Navy is the instrument which ensures that we are able to protect our nation and its interests. From the Arctic to the Antarctic, our ships are called upon to serve and our Navy is always ready to respond.

It was just over two months ago that we presented a Battle Ensign to HMCS Fredericton. Battle Ensigns were flown from ships during the 17th and 18th centuries prior to and during battle

to help avoid errors in identification during the confusing clouds of gunfire smoke. While we hope this deployment will not involve the use of the Battle Ensign for such purposes, we do expect it will be proudly flown.

As HMCS Fredericton departs, we should recall that the missions on which we send our military are not simply a matter of showing the flag; they often involve armed confrontations. We take great pride in what they do on our behalf, but at the same time we know how hard it can be for families and friends to see their loved ones sailing into possible danger. With that uppermost in mind, as they leave our shores under Canada's colours we wish the ship and its crew Godspeed and a safe return to their loved ones.